THE
TENTH
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TONY DANIEL
BEAU SMITH
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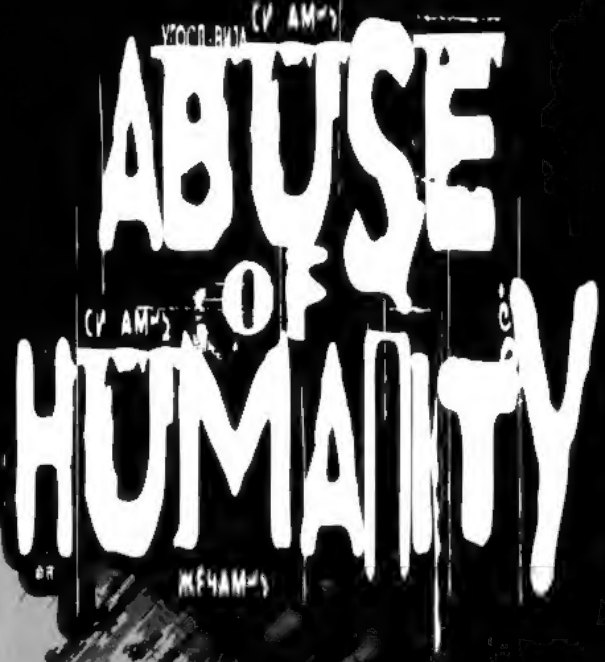
THE TENTH™

CHAPTER 1



TONY DANIEL
CREATOR & ARTIST

BEAU SMITH
DEVELOPER & WRITER

KEVIN CONRAD
INKER

PAUL MOUNTS
& BONGOTONE
COLORS

COVER
TONY DANIEL &
MARCO ALQUIZA

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SPECIAL THANKS TO:
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DOUG GRIFFITH
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for Image Comics

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THE TENTH #1. JAN 1997. FIRST PRINTING. An Image Comics Group title published by Image Comics 1440 N. HARBOR BLVD. SUITE 305, FULLERTON CA 92835. THE TENTH™ and all related characters are

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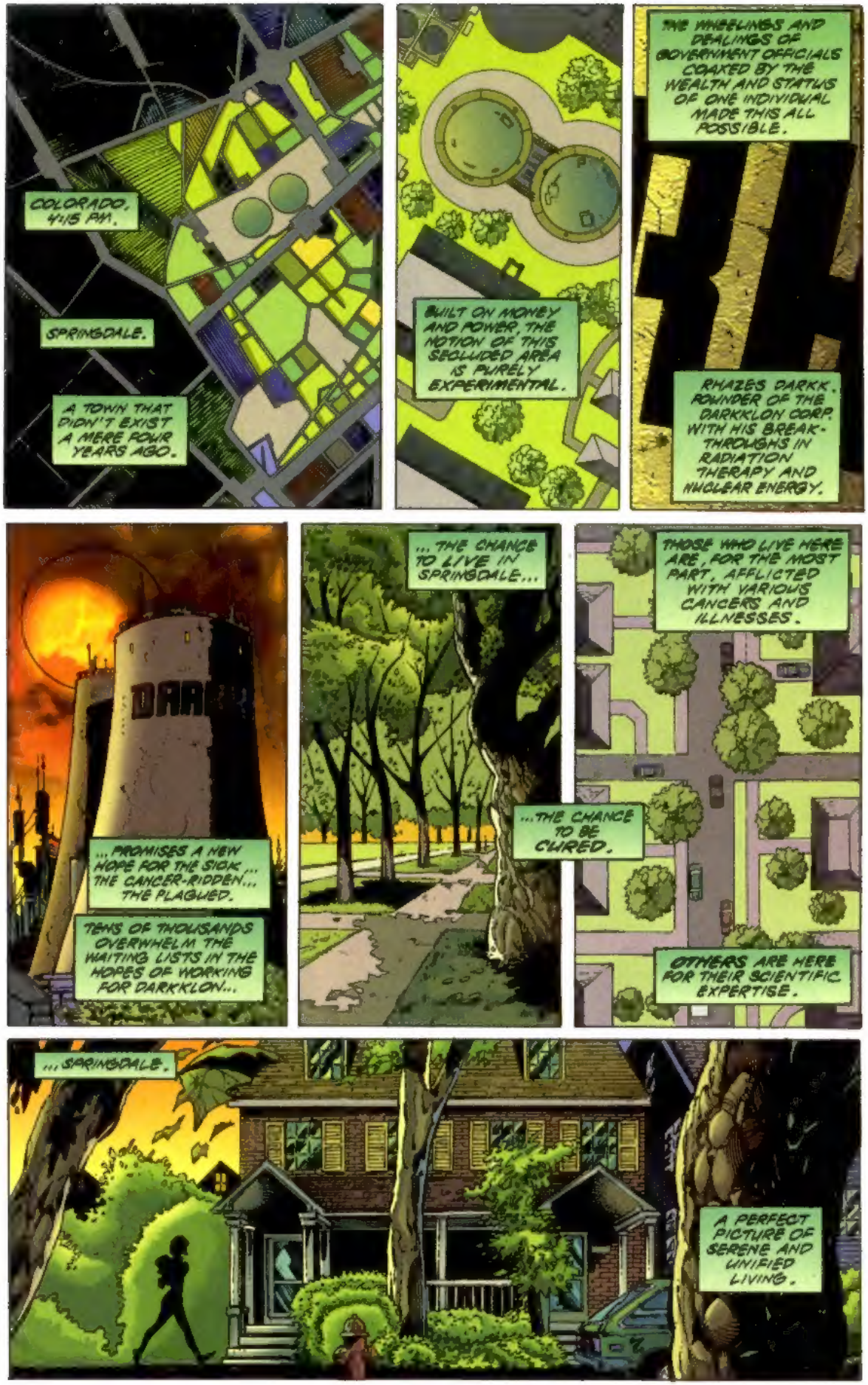
Printed in Canada.

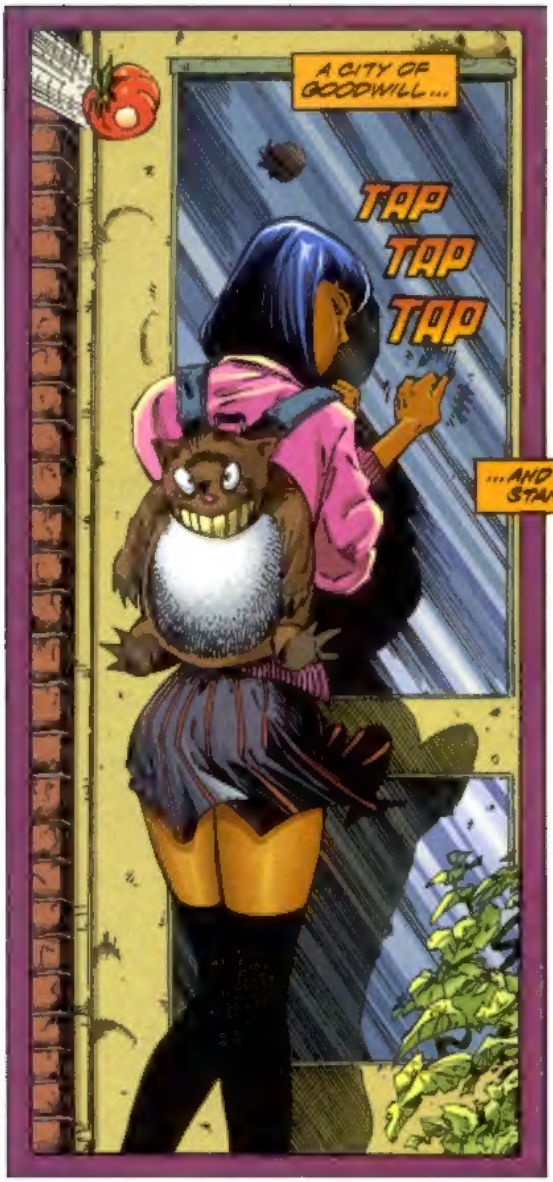
BLOOD.
LIKE MONEY...
...TOO MUCH...
...OR TOO LITTLE...
PLINK
...WILL BRING OUT THE MONSTER IN US ALL.

BL
TYPE
IN THE SPAN OF MINUTES A SILENT HAND WILLFULLY SEVERS THE STREAM OF CONTROL FROM THE CAPTORS.
THE BLOOD STOPS... SETTING OFF A CHAIN REACTION.
THE PLASMA FLOW HAS SEDATED HIS PRIMORDIAL EMOTIONS.
THE BEAST BEGINS TO RISE FROM WITHIN.
A SURREAL TRANSFORMATION OF TRANSPOSED DNA.
GRRRR
A SAVAGERY QUENCHED ONLY BY BLOOD.

UNCONTROLLED HORROR THAT NO MAN SHOULD SEE...
...LET ALONE FEEL.
NINE TIMES THE DARKNESS WITHIN HAS KNOCKED ON THE DOOR OF DESTINY.
IT WAS OPENED ON...
THE Tenth
ALERT...
DR. FINE, STATE YOUR POSITION... DR. FINE?
CREAK
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!

RGENCY!
THIS IS TAYLOR-1 CHECKING ON DISTURBANCE FROM LAB LEVEL-10 AS REQUESTED.
WHOOM
WHOOM
WHOOM
WHOOM
WHOOM
MMM... AFFIRMATIVE ON DISRUPTIVE PATTERN.
SEALMENT HAS BEEN OPENED. GOING IN WITH FIFE-3 FOR A CHECK.
GOING IN?
TAYLOR, THIS PLACE HAS BEEN RAVAGED.
SHEESH! EITHER A BOMB HAS GONE OFF IN HERE, OR OUR FRIEND IS LOOSE!
SET FOR FULL AUTO AND KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN.
FIFE, QUIT BREATHIN' SO HARD.
IT'S NOT ME, IT'S
OH... MY...
RAAAGH!


COLORADO. 4:15 AM.
SPRINGDALE.
A TOWN THAT DIDN'T EXIST A MERE FOUR YEARS AGO.
BUILT ON MONEY AND POWER, THE NOTION OF THIS SECLUDED AREA IS PURELY EXPERIMENTAL.
THE WHEELINGS AND DEALINGS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS COAXED BY THE WEALTH AND STATUS OF ONE INDIVIDUAL MADE THIS ALL POSSIBLE.
RHAZES DARKK. FOUNDER OF THE DARKKLON CORP. WITH HIS BREAK-THROUGHS IN RADIATION THERAPY AND NUCLEAR ENERGY.
DARK
... PROMISES A NEW HOPE FOR THE SICK... THE CANCER-RIDDEN... THE PLAGUED.
TENS OF THOUSANDS OVERWHELM THE WAITING LISTS IN THE HOPES OF WORKING FOR DARKKLON...
... THE CHANCE TO LIVE IN SPRINGDALE...
...THE CHANCE TO BE CURED.
THOSE WHO LIVE HERE ARE, FOR THE MOST PART, AFFLICTED WITH VARIOUS CANCERS AND ILLNESSES.
OTHERS ARE HERE FOR THEIR SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE.
... SPRINGDALE.
A PERFECT PICTURE OF SERENE AND UNIFIED LIVING.

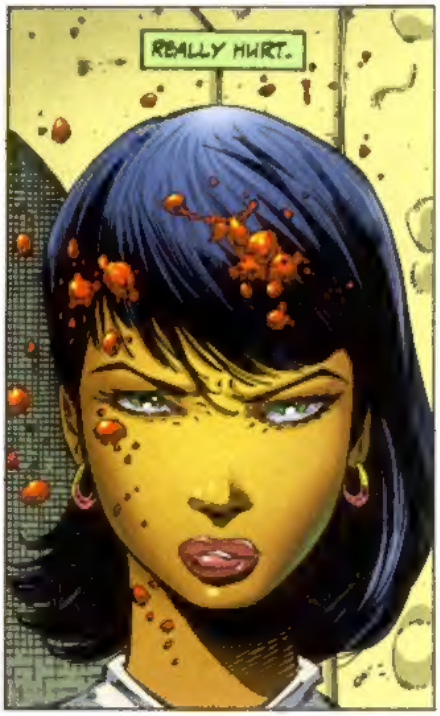

A CITY OF GOODWILL...
TAP
TAP
TAP
...AND UNDER-STANDING.

SPLOHHT
OOH!

OH, I AM SOOO SORRY, ESPERANZA. I HIT YOU IN THE HEAD.
I WAS AIMING AT YOUR EYE.
HEHE HEH. HA HAHA HA!

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT, PATTY.
SOMEBODY COULD GET HURT.

LOOK OUT, GIRLS. "SABRINA THE TEEN-AGE WITCH" MIGHT TURN US ALL INTO PUMPKINS.
OR FROGS? HEH HEH.


REALLY HURT.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, I'M COMING. I WAS IN THE SHOWER!
MEROW!
OH, GEEZ, ESPERANZA!
YOU'RE-- YOU'RE...
BLEEDING!
CALM DOWN, ZORINA. I AM NOT BLEEDING.
IT'S TOMA'TO, PATTY AND HER FRIENDS, THEY... WELL, YOU KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU PUT UP WITH THEIR ABUSE.
SPLAT
SLURP/ PURRR...
IF YOU WOULD JUST SHOW THEM WHAT YOU COULD DO-- JUST ONCE...
NO. YOU KNOW I CAN'T DO THAT. IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR.
THEY'RE-- NORMAL.
ESPERANZA, THEY'RE NOT NORMAL, THEY'RE BITC--
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO THINK ABOUT THEM ANYMORE, ZORINA.
I JUST WANT TO LAY DOWN AND REST.
REOOOW

RUN-- FASTER!
THEY'RE HUNTING FOR YOU.
THERE ARE MANY. THEIR EYES...
...ARE HIS EYES.
THE SECURITY FORCE OF SPRINGDALE HAS ACTIVATED A LEVEL-ONE EMERGENCY FOR THE ENTIRE CITY AND SURROUNDING PERIMETER.
THERE IS A REPORTED BREECH OF INTERIOR LIMITS BY A YET UNKNOWN OUTSIDE CONNECTION. FIRST INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE INTRUDER OR INTRUDERS ARE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED COLORADO MILITIA.
THE U.C.M. HAVE STATED THEIR ANTI-DARKLON SENTIMENTS FOR SOME TIME IN THEIR PREVIOUS PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS.
A SEVEN O'CLOCK CURFEW WILL BE IN EFFECT UNTIL--
--THE THREAT-- OR POSSIBLE THREAT-- IS SUBDUED.

I'M SORRY TOO ANTONIO, MAYBE WE CAN TOMORROW NIGHT
OOH! THIS CURFEW SUCKS!
BIGGIE: YES I LOVED THE CANDY
"IF MY MOM WASN'T SUCH A BIG-TIME SCIENTIST I'D BE BACK IN CHICAGO RIGHT NOW."
I DON'T THINK THIS EXPERIMENTAL TOWN IS FOR ME OR ESPERANZA.
PATTY AND HER BIMBO DEAD BIMBOS GAVE ESPY A ROUGH TIME THIS AFTERNOON.
THEY HATE HER BECAUSE UNLIKE THEM, SHE HAS A BRAIN. THEY'RE THE X-FILES CASES
X-TRA IGNORANT
OH, BY THE WAY. LOVED THE CANDY
ANTONIO! NO I CANNOT SNEAK OUT.
ESPERANZA AND I WILL PROBABLY WATCH [redacted] WE RENTED THAT AND THE CRAFT.
BIGGIE: NO, ANTONIO I WILL NOT WATCH [redacted] WITH YOU.
NO. I WILL NOT ASK

YOUR MOTHER.
BZZZZZ
I FOUND IT IN MY LEATHER JACKET--THE ONE YOU BORROWED--AND DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT.
ESPY!
OH, YOUR JACKET...
...MY BEEPER
OH...NO! MOM!
MAYBE NOW YOU'LL APPRECIATE ME BEING A CLEAN FREAK...IT COULD'VE BEEN IN MY CLOSET FOR DAYS!
THIS IS FROM THREE HOURS AGO! OH, NO! SHE PUNCHED IN HER EMERGENCY CODE TOO!
THE CURFEW IS GOING TO LOOK GOOD AFTER SHE GROUNDS ME FOR LIFE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE MYSELF SOMETIMES! HOW CAN I HAVE FORGOTTEN?
HELLO? HELLO?
HELLO? HELL
CLICK
BZZ! BZZ!
OOOH! T'S BUSY!
THIS IS DARK FLIGHT-ONE ON APPROACH TO MAIN BASE. PLEASE HAVE ALL INFO ON THE ESCAPE [redacted] FOR MR DARKK

MAIN BASE HAS GIVEN ME THE PRELIMS ON THE ESCAPE, MR. DARKK.
IT SEEMS THAT ONE OF THE MONITOR CREW WAS A MOLE FOR THE OUTSIDE.
THE CONTROL FLOW WAS CUT ON NUMBER TEN.
IT HAS ESCAPED THE MAIN BASE AND IS LOOSE IN SECTOR THREE. THAT'S WAY TOO CLOSE TO SPRINGDALE.
IT KILLED THREE OF THE GUARDS--AND THERE WAS NOT A TRACE OF BLOOD TO BE FOUND.
OHH, VERY CLEVER. NUMBER TEN MANAGED TO ASCERTAIN THAT A BLOOD FEED WOULD ALLOW HIM TO TAKE HIS HUMAN FORM TEMPORARILY
SO, IT'S A MAN WE'RE LOOKING FOR, THEN, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE TENTH.
CLICK
SHHHCK
YEARGH!!

WHEN YOU UNDERRATE MY CREATION, YOU BELITTLE ME!
MR RENEGAR, TAKE ME TO THE MAIN BASE
NOW.
Y-YES SIR MR. DARK.
BLA BLA
CONTACT SECURITY
PHIT
TELL THEM TO ACTIVATE PROJECT THREE FOR THE HUNT

CAAW
CAAW
CAAW
COVER THE SKY WITH DARKNESS, MY CHILDREN.
HE MUST BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE NEST.
HE HAS DONE WRONG
CAAW
HE MUST BE PUNISHED FOR HIS DEEDS AGAINST THE FAMILY.
CAAW
YESSS THROUGH OUR EYES I SEE HIS FLIGHT.

EMBRACE THE MIGHT SPIRIT MY FLOCK.!
NOTHING WILL STAND IN THE WAY OF THE VENGEANCE!
LET THE BLOOD HUNT OF KILLKROW BEGIN!
VROOOM
GEEZ! IT'S PITCH BLACK. YOU'D THINK DARKLON WOULD HAVE SOME STREET LIGHTS UP.
A LITTLE HARD TO DO WHEN THERE AREN'T ANY STREETS ZORINA.
BESIDES, WE'RE NOW OFF A LADY OUT AFTER DARKLON CURFEW. WE'RE BREAKING THE LAW.
DARKLON'S LAW. EVERYBODY IN THE WORLD THINKS THAT SPRINGDALE IS THE PLACE TO LIVE. HMPH! IT'S JUST LIKE A PRISON. ESPY.
I KINDA KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, ZORINA, IT'S LIKE EVERYWHERE ELSE. I JUST DON'T FIT IN.

IT'S NOT YOU THAT NEEDS TO EAT ESPERANZA.
IT'S EVERYONE ELSE THAT'S THE WRONG SIZE.
I WANT TO BELIEVE YOU, ZORINA BUT--I JUST... DON'T KNOW
NOT TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT, ESPY BUT COULD YOU STEP ON THE GAS A LITTLE?
IF THERE ARE TERRORISTS OUT THERE LIKE THE TV SAID, I WANNA MAKE SURE MOM'S OKAY
I'M ALREADY DOING SIXTY ZORINA. THIS IS A DIRT ROAD, NOT THE AUTOBAHN.
AND YOU WONDER WHY THEY JERKED YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE.
IT'S DARKKLON I TELL YOU. THEY DON'T EVEN WANT ME TO DRIVE!
I KNOW IT'S ALL A PART OF SOME EVIL PLOT THEY'VE GOT GOING.
CAAW
CAWW
CAAW
ZORINA, YOU'VE SEEN WAY TOO MANY OLIVER STONE MOVIES.
THAT KIND OF HARD-CORE EVIL'S ONLY MAKE-BELIEVE.

" SNT "?"
YESSS, THROUGH YOUR EYES I SEE THE FLEEING PRODUCT OF THE HARVEST.
DESCEND UPON HIM AND REWARD YOURSELVES WITH HORS D'OEUVRES OF FLESH.
CAAW
CAAW
AHH! I STEN TO THE PULSE OF THE PREY QUICKEN
CAAW
PLAYS THE SWEET MELODY OF DEATH.
CAAW
ESPY. LOOK OUT-- N THE ROAD--A DEER!
THUMP

YOU'RE GOING TO HIT IT... LOOK OUT!
OHMY GODOHMY GODOHMY GOD!
WHUMP
WHUMP
WE-WE WERE FLYING
I-I-KNOW.
WHRUNK
KROOM
UUUGH!
CAAW
IT'S NOT A DEER...IT'S A GUY!
OH MY GOD
CAAW
WHAT'S THAT NOISE? SOUNDS LIKE
HURT...OR BEEN HURT.
CAAW
GRR!
CAAW
NO!
UGRUH!
NO! STOP IT! HE'S HURT! LEAVE HIM ALONE!
CAAW
CAAW

GO
AWAM!
OOH, MY, WHAT DID I DO?
HERE, ESPY. PUT THIS ON.
YOU ALWAYS GET COLD WHEN THIS HAPPENS.
UHH. MUST.. STOP.. DARKK!
VAMM Z? REMEMBER THAT NIGHTMARE I TOLD YOU ABOUT? WELL, IT'S HIM!
THE MONSTER DREAM?

IT'S YOU
COME ON, ESPY, SNAP OUT OF IT. WE'VE GOT TO GET THIS GUY TO A DOCTOR
YES YOU'RE RIGHT. HE'S HURT PRETTY BAD
NO DOCTOR NO.
THEY DID.. THIS TO.. ME. NO DOCTOR.
HE SOUNDS SCARED ZORINA WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
WE'LL TAKE HIM WITH US WE'VE GOT TO FIND MOM
SHE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO.

THE BEAST'S ROLE AS PREY WILL BE SHORT-LIVED
IT IS NOT A PART OF HIS MENTAL ATTIRE TO WEAR THE CLOTHING OF THE HUNTED
HE WILL SOON SHED THAT SKIN AND ONCE MORE ADORN HIMSELF WITH THE FANGS OF THE HUNTER.
AND THEN HE WILL COME HUNTING.
...FOR ME.
IF YOU WEREN'T THERE HE WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO HUNT FOR BLAZES
YOUR PRESENCE NOT ONLY ENDANGERS YOURSELF BUT ALSO THE PROJECT
OH? QUITE THE CONTRARY...

BAHAREH!
BEG TO DIFFER ALL YOU WANT RHAZES. I HAVE BEEN RUNNING THE SPRINGDALE COMPLEX VERY WELL UNTIL YOUR ARRIVAL.
AFTER ALL IT WAS MY PEOPLE THAT UNCOVERED DR. JAENA FINE AS THE COVERT SABOTEUR.
AND YOUR PEOPLE ARE THE ONES THAT CARRY THE BURDEN OF HER LIBERATING NUMBER TEN, NEED I REMIND YOU?
THROUGH MY OWN MINIONS HER CAPTURE WAS POSSIBLE.
YOU MEAN BLACKSPELL, THAT NOCTURNAL NEANDERTHAL. HMPH! HE LACKS FOCUS. HIS WAYS TEND TO TILT OUT OF CONTROL.
I PREFER MORE "TRADITIONAL" FORMS OF INTERROGATION.
MORE OF A "HANDS-ON" APPROACH
INDEED

KILLKROW HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN EFFECT
THE TENTH SHALL SUFFERED A SEVERE LOSS OF BLOOD WITH KILLKROW'S MINIONS
HE SHOULD BE REVERTING BACK TO HIS PREDATOR FORM WITHIN HOURS HE'LL BE AN EASY TARGET THEN
...MENTALLY AS WELL AS PHYSICALLY
BLACKSPELL IS OVERSEEING THE INTERROGATION OF OUR SABOTEUR DR. JAENA FINE.
I'LL EAT YOUR TONGUE!
USING BLACKSPELL TO INTERROGATE S LIKE USING A BAZOOKA TO K LL A COCKROACH. WHY NOT LET ME HANDLE MS FINE..
BECAUSE YOUR POSITION IS THAT OF MY ASSISTANT YOU NEED TO BE READY AT ALL TIMES TO TAKE CONTROL OVER THE MISSION IN THE EVENT I NEED TO LOOK AFTER MORE GLOBAL MATTERS
I HAVE NOT COME TH■ FAR IN MY OPERATION ONLY TO BE BROUGHT DOWN BY THAT WHICH I CREATED!
"THE TENTH SHALL BE CONTA NED!
HE IS NOW ONLY A MERE SHELL OF S FORMER SELF
I TOOK HIS WEAPONS--
I TOOK HIS SK ..S--
I W .. NOW TAKE HIM!

I-I DON'T SEE YOUR MOTHER, ZORINA. ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE PLACE?
YES-THIS S T.
MAYBE SHE GOT A RIDE HOME BEFORE THE CURFEW. A CITY TRANSPORT.
THEN LET'S TRY HOME.
AND FAST
FLIQUISH
UHHH
OH GOD, ESPY, I HOPE SHE'S ALL RIGHT
I'M SURE SHE IS, ZORINA. JUST HOLD ON.
PRAGH
SQUIAP
I JUST WANT HER TO BE SAFE-- WITH US.
RGRRARR
AND FAR AWAY FROM DANGER.
TO BE CONTINUED

TONY DANIEL'S

THE Tenth

WOW!

IT'S FINALLY HERE

—my first creator-owned comic. I've been dreaming about this since I was in fourth grade, when I first began drawing comics. Back then I drew characters called Ball and the Gang, which a friend created with the hopes of turning them into a newspaper funny. Now I'm finally getting a chance to draw my own creation—The Tenth.

I created The Tenth in 1986, but it wasn't until recently when I pulled out all my old sketches and notes that I realized what I had created...a unique and grotesquely cool character whose strong and compelling story must be told! With the help of veteran writer Beau Smith, who took on the writing chores and wove all my plot twists together, you hold installment One of Four in your hands right now. Believe you me, I have plenty more than four installments to bring you in the future...but for now we'll quench your thirst with The Tenth: Abuse of Humanity. Unless a giant meteor slams into Chicago, an ongoing series is slated for late summer.

Now it's time to thank a few people who guided me in the right direction. Thanks to my family and my girlfriend, for being there for me through the good, the bad and the ugly; to Bob Harras and Fabian Nicieza for first discovering me and allowing me to start my career off right—on a top ten book called X-Force; thanks also to Todd McFarlane, who not only helped me realize that comic art is much more than being able to draw pretty pictures, but also gave me the opportunity to work with one of the greatest writers in comics, Alan Moore. To Frank Frazetta, who inspires as well as motivates me to be my best. Ditto to Frank Miller, for making me want to tell the greatest stories I can. I can honestly say that I would not be here now, bringing you stories of a misunderstood monster (who only wants your friendship and your blood) called The Tenth, if it weren't for these people and you, my readers. Thank you all...I hope to see you here in thirty!

THANK YOU SINCERELY,

TONY DANIEL

TENTH ACROSS AMERICA TOUR

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MARCH 15TH & 16TH
MEGA CON
Orlando, Florida
Orange County Convention Center
9800 International Drive
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Tenth

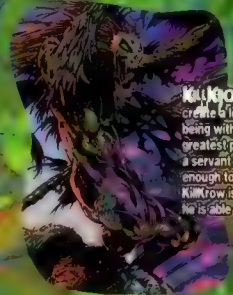
A GUIDE

THE TENTH: The perfect soldier abducted and enlisted against his will to become the ultimate warrior in the war against mankind. Fueled by blood, driven by rage, the Tenth deals in a transmutation of four distinct plasma levels. With each level acceleration he can become the perfect predator, or the last hope for the world as we know it.

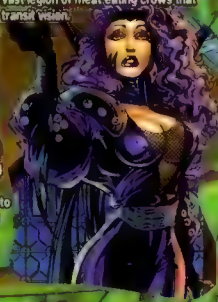
ESPERANZA DEL TOJO: This beautiful 18 year old orphan has spent most of her life guarding the secret within her from the rest of the world. Her friends have been few, her closest being Zorina Fine the only other person she can share her inner secret with. Esperanza is a trained photographer and works with her friend and model Zorina. Now she has found that there is another that she has a connection with. One that also feels her thoughts-her dreams. That person is The Tenth.

RHAZES DARK: The self proclaimed Jonas Salk of radioactive research. Perceived as the great benefactor to mankind in truth he is the dark core of evil. He has waited thousands of years to perfect his plan of genetic holocaust. Now the time has come.

ZORINA FINE: Zorina has left college to further her modeling career along with the help of Esperanza. She has moved with her mother from Chicago to Springdale. Her mother is a noted scientist and unknown to the general public an agent for the covert sector of the government. Zorina will soon find her life in a world of turbulence like she has never known before.



KILLKROW: One of the first attempts by Rhazes Dark to create a leader for his army of darkness. KillKrow is a sadistic being with a black soul. Destruction for his own amusement is his greatest pleasure. He serves Rhazes dark without question, but a servant is all he will ever be. His mental DNA was not strong enough to have him become the leader Rhazes Dark desired. KillKrow is able to control a vast legion of meat eating crows that he is able to also use as his transit vision.



BAHAREH-THE ARCHESSOR: As deadly as she is beautiful, Bahareh has been the central core of running The Darklon Corporation for Rhazes dark. Now Dark has returned and Bahareh is finding him to be more of a nuisance than a blessing. has her time running Darklon affected her loyalties to her leader? Has she developed her own agenda for personal power? Her true plan shall soon unfold to all.

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CHAPTER 2

ABUSE OF HUMANITY

TONY DANIEL
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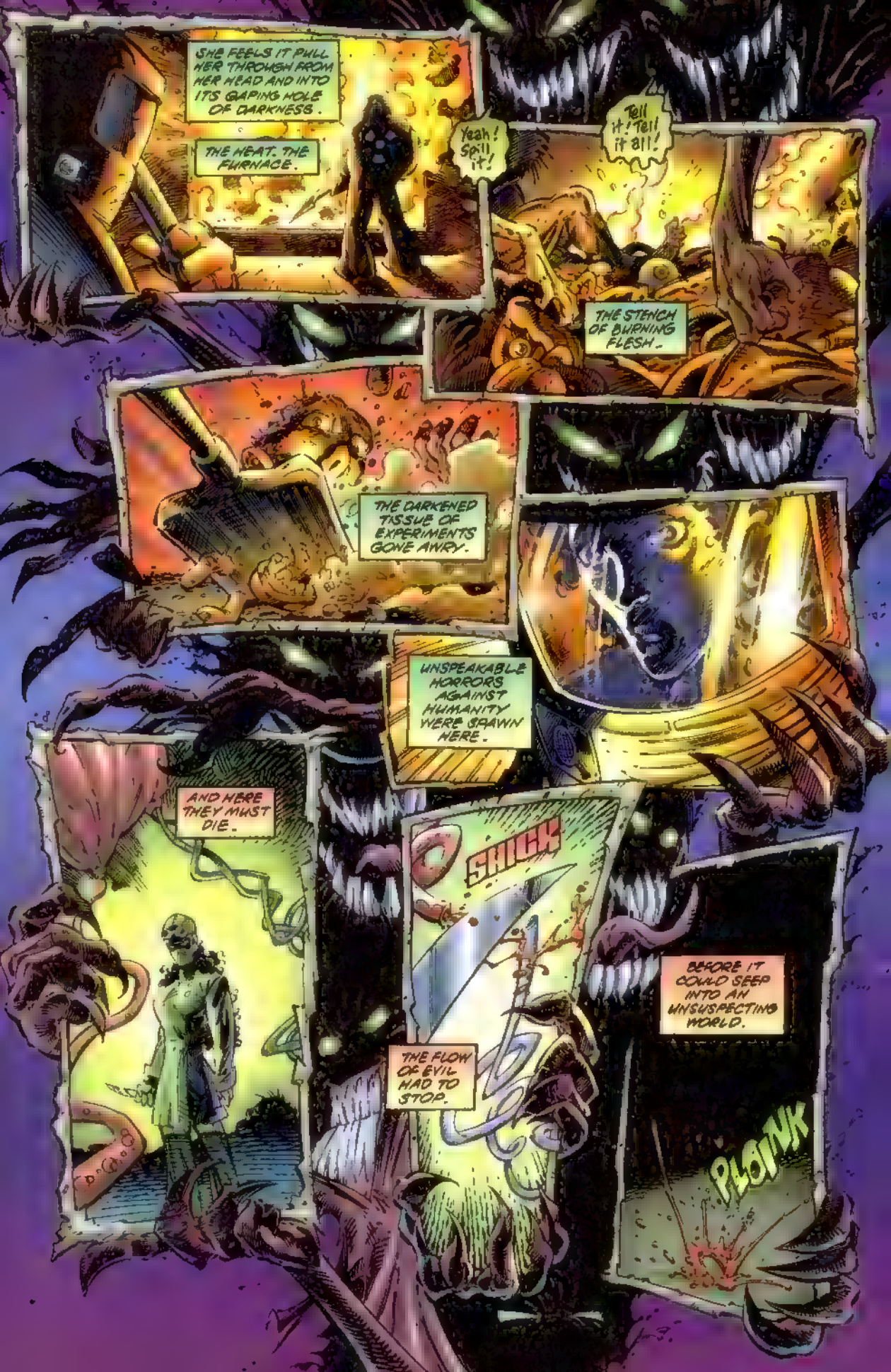
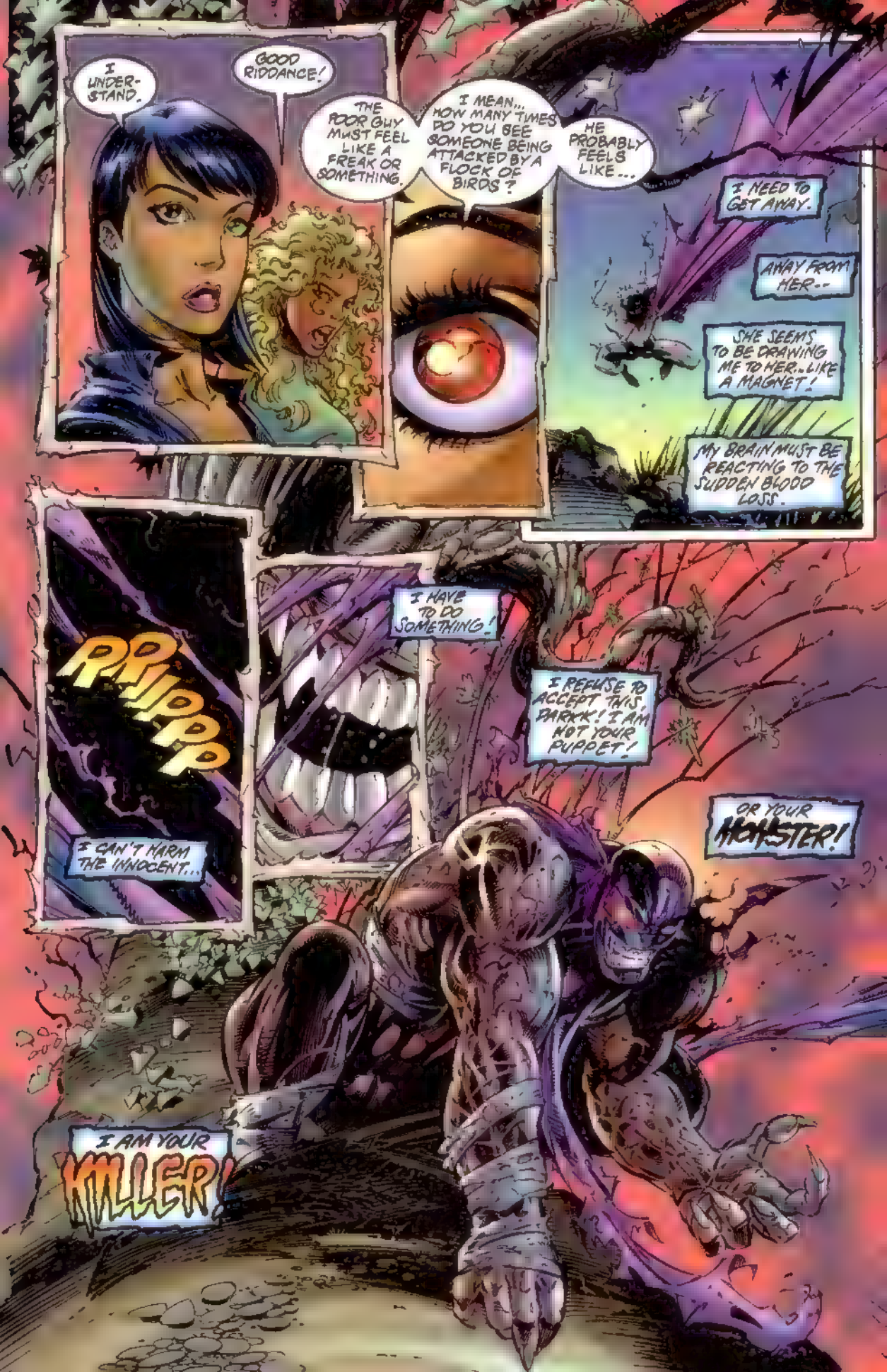
SHE HEARS THE RUSTLING OF CLOTH AGAINST A HARD COLD FLOOR.
SHIFF
SHIFF
THE ONCOMING SOUND INCREASES HER FUTILE ATTEMPTS AT THE TIGHT HEMP THAT BINDS HER WRISTS.
SHE KNOWS THAT IF YOU COULD HEAR DARKNESS FALL IT WOULD SOUND LIKE THIS.
WHISSS
JAENA FINE'S THOUGHTS ARE NOT OF HER JOB AS A SPECIAL OPS SPY.
NOT EVEN OF HER OWN SAFETY.
HISSSS!
THEY ARE THAT OF HER DAUGHTER'S WELL-BEING.
AND THAT OF THE WORLD'S.
IT HAS COME FOR HER.
MELLOOO, PRETTY-PRETTY!
IT HAS COME FOR HER MEMORIES.
LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.
IT HAS COME FOR HER SOUL.
NOOOOOO

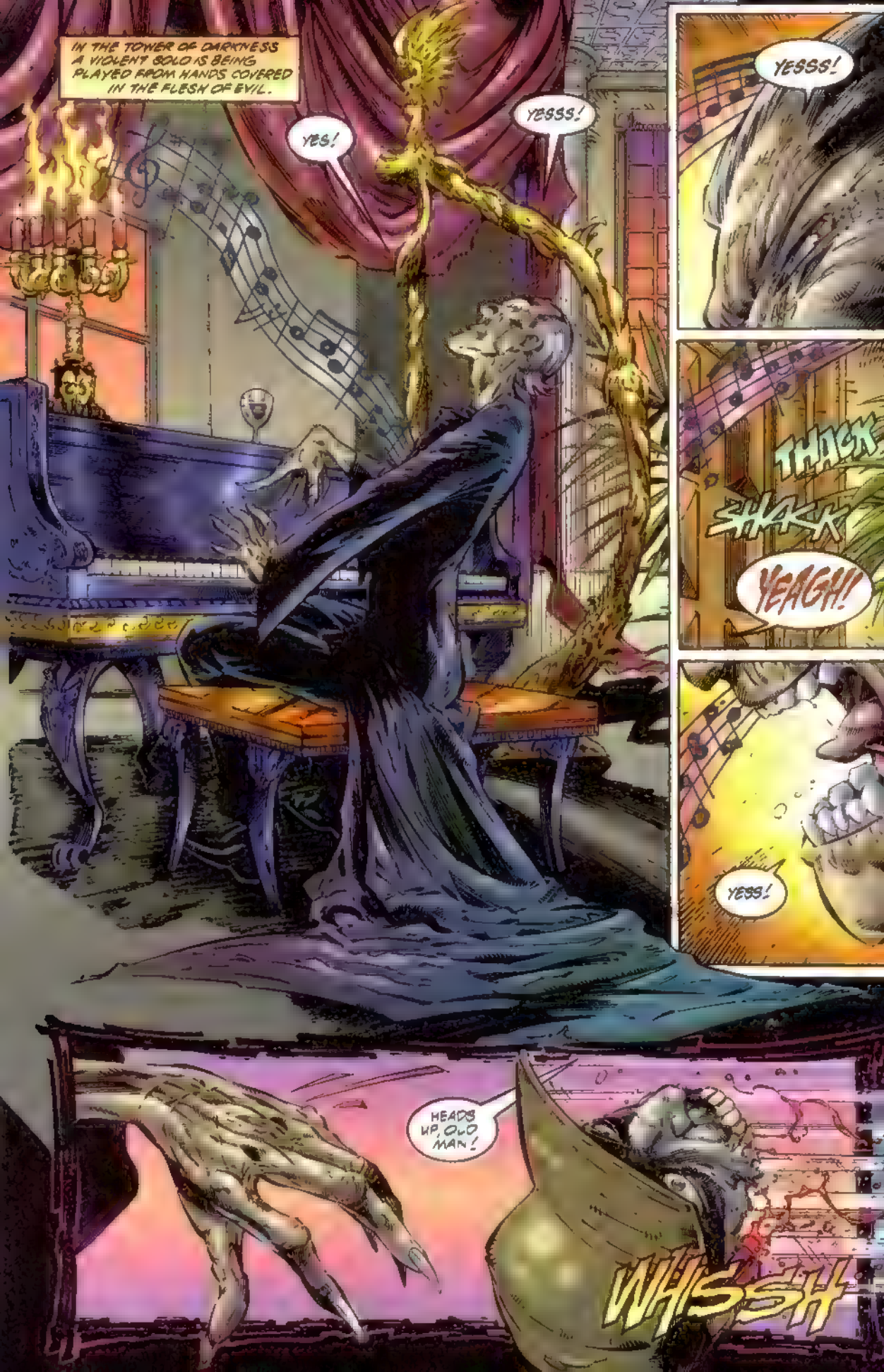

SHE FEELS IT PULL HER THROUGH FROM HER HEAD AND INTO ITS GAPING HOLE OF DARKNESS.
THE HEAT. THE FURNACE.
Yeah! Spill it!
Tell it! Tell it all!
THE STENCH OF BURNING FLESH.
THE DARKENED TISSUE OF EXPERIMENTS GONE AWRY.
UNSPEAKABLE HORRORS AGAINST HUMANITY WERE SPAWN HERE.
AND HERE THEY MUST DIE.
SHICK
BEFORE IT COULD SEEP INTO AN UNSUSPECTING WORLD.
THE FLOW OF EVIL HAD TO STOP.
PLOINK

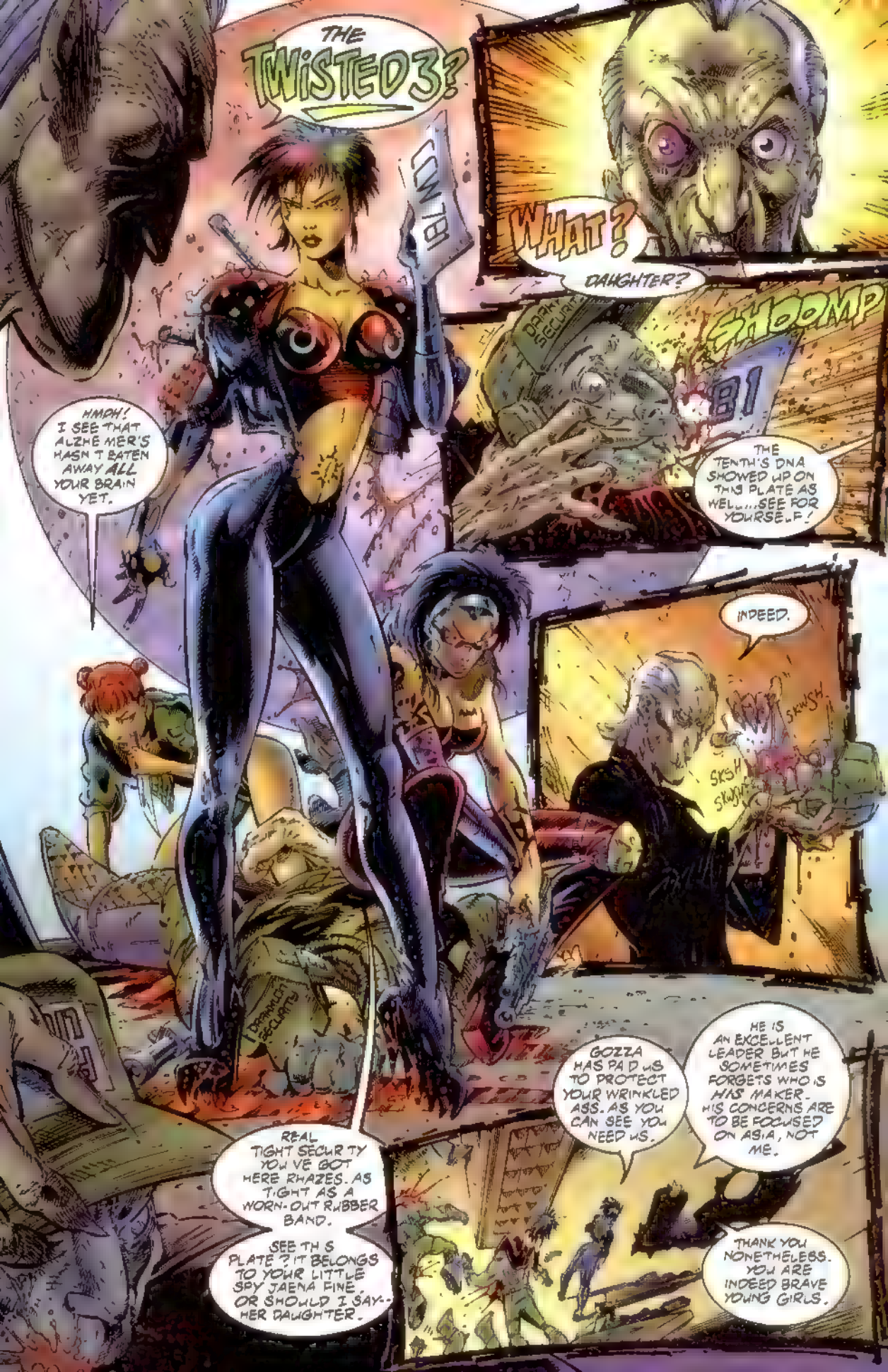
SOOOO, IT WAS YOU THAT CUT OFF THE SUPPLY OF HAPPY JUICE!
Bad Girl! Bad Girl!
NO! NO! GET AWAY!
Naughty Naughty!
She must be punished!
lemme spank her!
C'mere, chickie! Give Daddy a KISS!
FLISSS
COME ON IN AND MEET THE BOYS!
AHHH!
TOP!

HELOO!
AND WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
IT LOOKS LIKE OUR RABBIT HAS LEFT A LITTLE SOMETHING BEHIND.
IT SEEMS EVEN THE BLIND PIG FINDS THE ACORN ON OCCASION.
ZIP IT, JIM!.
LET'S PACK IT AND PAY A VISIT TO THE OLD MAN, LADIES.
:COUGH: :COUGH: GEEZ!
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT! MOM'S GONNA HAVE A FIT!
WHICH ONE OF THOSE THINGAMAJIGS IS BROKE, EGBY?
:COUGH:- NO, ZORINA.
I THINK IT'S JUST OVER-HEATED.
WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO LET IT SIT FOR A WHILE.
WHAT? ARE YOU CRAZY? WE HAVE A HALF-DEAD, HALF-NAKED MAN IN THE BACK SEAT, WHO, BY THE WAY, IS PROBABLY SOME KINDA FREAK...
WILL YOU STOP WHINING?
UGGRUH...
WHINE? ME? YOU MUST BE HIGH!
HRUGHH...
AWW, GREAT! NATURE BOY JUST TOOK OFF! AND HE'S STOLE YOUR BLANKET!
HEY! WAIT! DON'T GO!


I UNDER-STAND.
GOOD RIDDANCE!
THE POOR GUY MUST FEEL LIKE A FREAK OR SOMETHING.
I MEAN... HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU SEE SOMEONE BEING ATTACKED BY A FLOCK OF BIRDS?
HE PROBABLY FEELS LIKE...
I NEED TO GET AWAY.
AWAY FROM HER--
SHE SEEMS TO BE DRAWING ME TO HER..LIKE A MAGNET!
MY BRAIN MUST BE REACTING TO THE SUDDEN BLOOD LOSS.
RRIPPP
I CAN'T HARM THE INNOCENT..
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!
I REFUSE TO ACCEPT THIS, DARKK! I AM NOT YOUR PUPPET!
OR YOUR HOLSTER!
I AM YOUR KILLER!

YOU READY TO WALK?
GUESS SO...BUT I FEEL STRANGE SUDDENLY--
--AS IF SOMEONE DIED OR SOMETHING.
DON'T SAY THAT. YOU'LL JINX US!
I NEED TO GET BACK.
BACK TO THE PLACE WHERE THEY DID THIS TO ME.
BACK TO THE PLACE WHERE LIFE ENDS AND ARMAGEDDON BEGINS.
BUT FIRST I NEED A HOST.
OR I'LL BEGIN TO LOSE CONTROL.
...SOMEONE PURE...
IF THAT HAPPENS... I'LL LOSE MYSELF FOREVER--
--TO THE BEAST WITHIN.
I MUST FIND SOMEONE WHO DESERVES TO BE MY BLOOD SERVICE...
...IN EVIL.


IN THE TOWER OF DARKNESS A VIOLENT SOLO IS BEING PLAYED FROM HANDS COVERED IN THE FLESH OF EVIL.
YES!
YESSS!
YESSS!
THACK
SHACK
YEAGH!
YESS!
HEADS UP, OLD MAN!
WHISH


THE TWISTED 3?
BLAM!
WHAT?
DAUGHTER?
DARKNIGHT SECURITY
KHOOMP
B1
HMMH! I SEE THAT ALZHEIMER'S HASN'T EATEN AWAY ALL YOUR BRAIN YET.
THE TENTH'S DNA SHOWED UP ON THIS PLATE AS WELL...SEE FOR YOURSELF!
INDEED.
SKWSH
SKSH
SKWSH
DARKNIGHT SECURITY
REAL TIGHT SECURITY YOU'VE GOT HERE RHAZES. AS TIGHT AS A WORN-OUT RUBBER BAND.
SEE THIS PLATE? IT BELONGS TO YOUR LITTLE SPY JAENA FINE. OR SHOULD I SAY- HER DAUGHTER.
GOZZA HAS PAID US TO PROTECT YOUR WRINKLED ASS. AS YOU CAN SEE YOU NEED US.
HE IS AN EXCELLENT LEADER BUT HE SOMETIMES FORGETS WHO IS HIS MAKER. HIS CONCERNS ARE TO BE FOCUSED ON ASIA, NOT ME.
THANK YOU NONETHELESS. YOU ARE INDEED BRAVE YOUNG GIRLS.

I HAVE LIVED HUNDREDS OF YEARS WITHOUT YOUR "PROTECTION", KIRA!.
IN THE TIME THAT MY PLAN HAS INCUBATED, MANY MERCENARIES SUCH AS YOU AND YOUR SISTERS HAVE ARRIVED AND LEFT THIS MORTAL COIL.
AND THOSE WITHIN MY OWN RANKS THAT SOUGHT TO BETRAY ME HAVE ALSO FOUND DEPARTURE FROM THIS LIFE--
--VERY UNPLEASANT.
FOR YOU SEE, I KNOW OF THE TREACHERY THAT BEATS IN THE HEARTS OF THOSE CLOSEST TO ME.
OH... REALLY?
MOM! ARE YOU HERE? IT'S ME.
I DON'T THINK SHE'S HERE, Z.
I'M GONNA LOOK ON THE KITCHEN BOARD. MAYBE SHE LEFT A MESSAGE.
RREEOW!
WHILE YOU DO THAT I'M GOING TO CHANGE CLOTHES.
I'VE STILL GOT CROW GUNK ON THESE.
HURRY ESPY, WE'VE GOT TO FIND MOM.

ESPY, GET MY JACKET WHILE--
WHUK
UGH!
CRASH!
I'M GETTIN' A SCAN ON ANOTHER FORM HERE ON THE SECOND FLOOR.
AFFIRMATIVE ON SNARE M.SSION. WE HAVE THE PACKAGE IN HAND.
TAKE IT OUT.
WILL DO.
ZORINA!
WBOOM
WBOOM
WBOOM
OOOH!
RRREEE!

YEE-HAAW! I'M GETT'N' ANOTHER READIN'--SMALLER ONE. A CAT!
YER NINE LIVES HAVE JUST RUN OUT!
KLUUK!
I GONNA SEND YOU TO LITTER-BOX HELL, KITTY-KITTY!
HEH HEH HEH..
WHACK
HEE
WA
JERK.

POL
GET HER IN THE THE TRUCK AND LET'S GO!
MMM. SHE'S A SWEET LOOKIN' LITTLE PACKAGE.
POLICE
POLICE
KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF HER, LOU. THE BOSS WANTS HER CLEAN.
BURUGH
HEY! I HEARD SOMETHIN'!
PURRR.
SHHHH!
MEEOW
NO, ARUSA!
NO USE IN HIDING, G.R.L. I'M NOT GONNA HURT YOU... MUCH

COME OUT, COME OUT WHERE-EVER YOU ARE!
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
PLEASE ARUSA. BE QUIET.
REOMMPH!
I HOPE THIS CHICK IS AS STACKED AS THE ONE THEY HAULED OUTTA HERE.
DARKLON
COULD BE SOME FUN.
REEOWW
CAN IT. LET'S GET TH.S OVER WITH.

MY SCANNER IS STARTIN' TO BLIP LIKE CRAZY!

VIIIP VIIIP

GRRR!

YA HEAR THAT? COME ON, LET'S FRY THIS PLACE!

OH...

SLISH

CHLAK

WHAA-- YEEEAGH!

REOW?

BLAM BLAM BLAM

RIIP

MY...

AAGHH!

I FORGOT TO THANK YOU FOR THE RIDE.

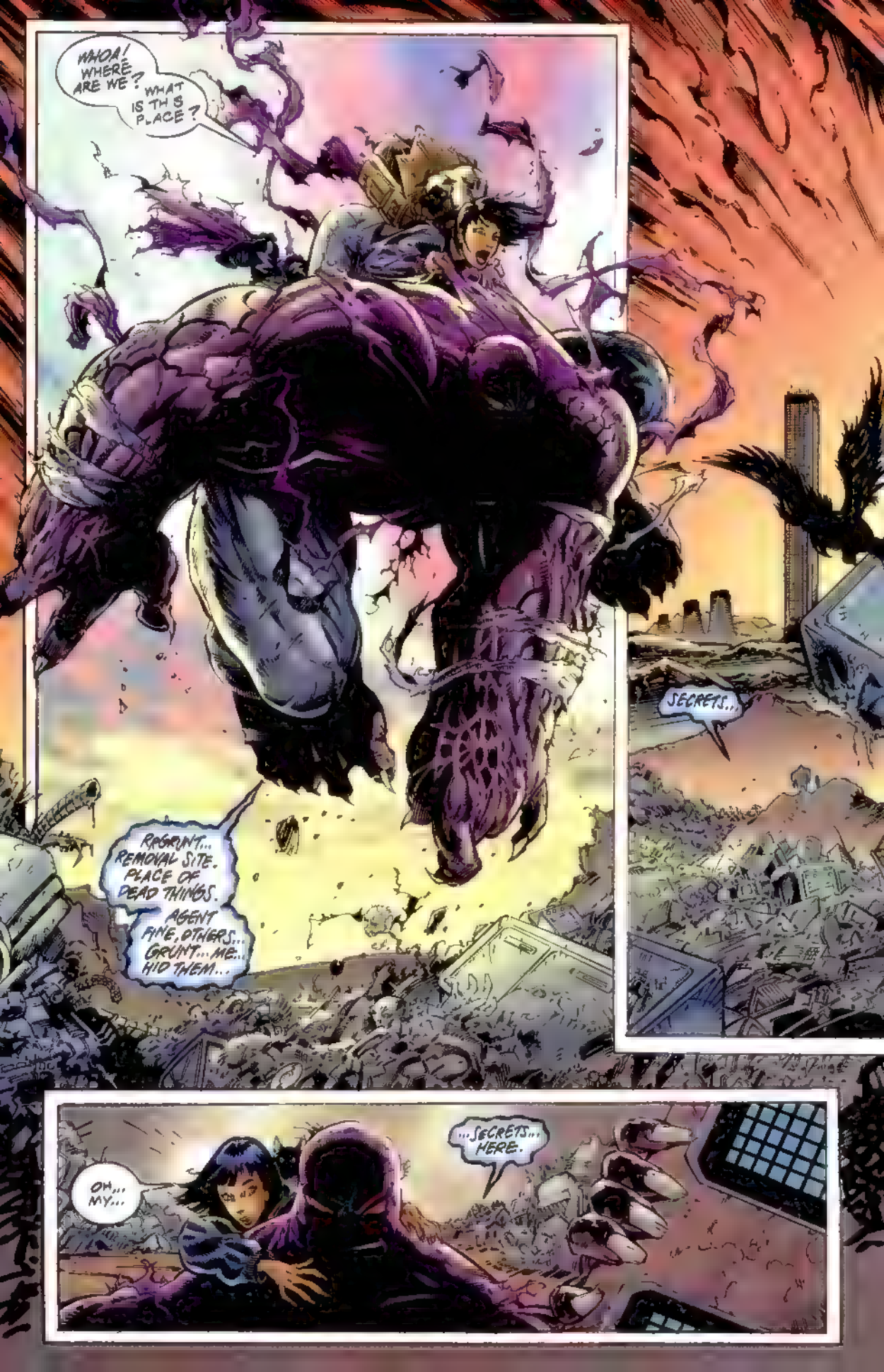
MEEOW!

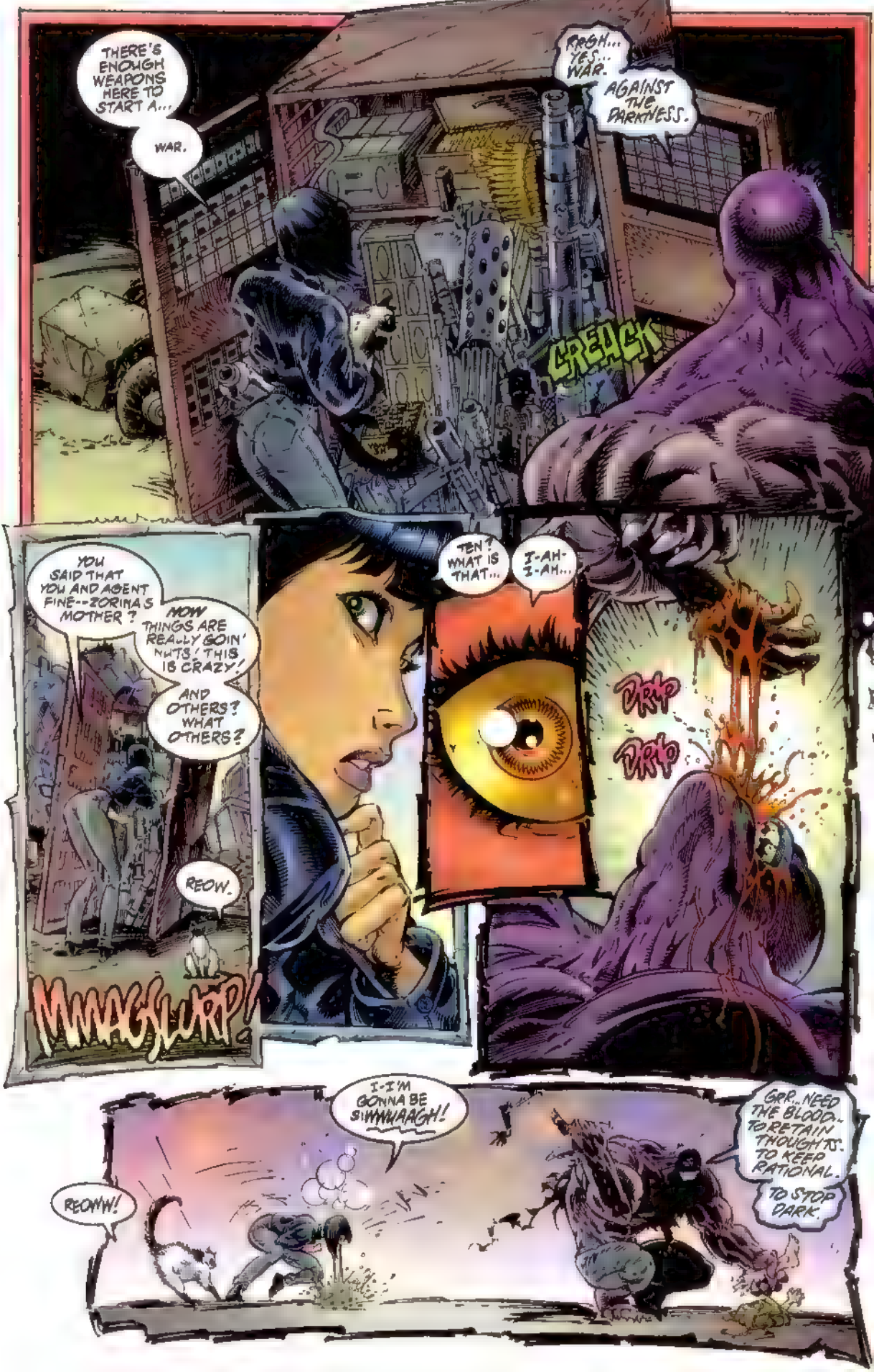
GIVE ME YOUR HAND. I'M HERE TO HELP.
I.. KNOW.
RIP THEM APART!
HOW SWEET! SO TENDER... IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ME PUKE!
NUMBER TEN HAS BEEN VERY BAD, MY PRETTIES. OUR DADDY IS VERY ANGRY WITH HIM AND HIS LITTLE GIRLFRIEND...
WHOOSH
CAWW
OH, YOU'RE SOOO WRONG. ONCE DADDY'S BOY...
AARGH! HE'S NOT MY FATHER!
SLASH
...ALWAYS DADDY'S BOY!
HEEHEEHA!!
SLASH
CAWW
COME. ESPY.

BRASSH
CAWW
CAWW
CAWW
CAWW
CAWW
AFTER THEM, MY FLOCK!
GO TO HELL, KROW!
YOU JUST JUMPED-- TWO STORIES!
THERE'S NO GOING, FOOL. WE'RE ALREADY HERE!
CAWW
SCREEECH! YOU CAN'T RUN BUT YOU CAN DIIIIEE!

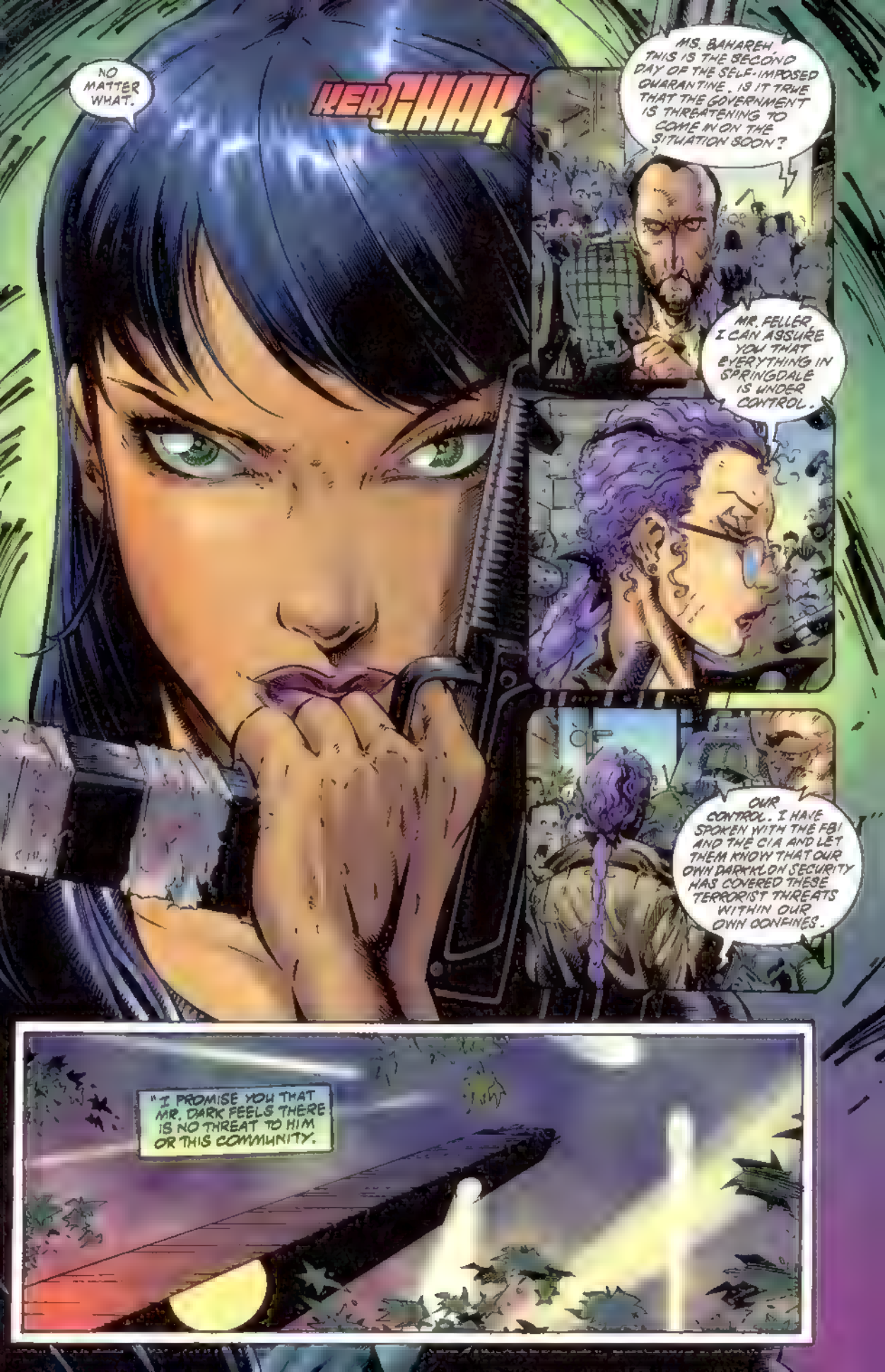
RRAGH... NOT IF I CAN KILL YOU FIRST, KILLKROW!
GRR... THE CAR...
HUH? THE CAR?
THAT'S... MY CAR...
RRAGH!
SKIT-T
...MY BMW!
RRAGH... NEED IT.
WHOOOSH
BLAOOOH
CANNNGANNNN
MY CAR... MY HOUSE...
...GEEZ!
WHOOOOSH

THE PITS OF DARKKLON.
WE KNOW YOU AND YOUR MOMMY ARE IN ON IT WITH THE TRAITOROUS TENTH, SWEET MEAT.
I WANT TO KNOW WHERE HE IS.
KISS MY ASS. I DON'T KNOW.
:HISSS: I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN THE GIRLS TELL ME NO.
UHH. WHO CARES?
ESPECIALLY PRETTY ONES LIKE YOU AND YOUR DELICIOUS MOMMY!
WHERE'S ...MMEH... MY MMEH... MOM?
WHY DON'T YOU...
...ASK HER?
HEHEHEHEH!
Tell us or Mommy will spank! Heeheeheh!
NO! NO! NOOO!


WHOA! WHERE ARE WE? WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
RRGRUNT... REMOVAL SITE. PLACE OF DEAD THINGS. AGENT FINE. OTHERS... GRUNT... ME... HID THEM...
SECRETS...
OH... MY...
...SECRETS... HERE.


THERE'S ENOUGH WEAPONS HERE TO START A...
WAR.
KRGH... YES... WAR.
AGAINST THE DARKNESS.
CRICK
YOU SAID THAT YOU AND AGENT FINE--ZORINA'S MOTHER?
NOW THINGS ARE REALLY GOIN' NUTS! THIS IS CRAZY!
AND OTHERS? WHAT OTHERS?
REOW.
MMMGSLURP!
TEN? WHAT IS THAT...
I-AH-I-AM...
DRIP
DRIP
I-I'M GONNA BE SIWWWAAGH!
REOWW!
GRR.. NEED THE BLOOD.. TO RETAIN THOUGHTS. TO KEEP RATIONAL.
TO STOP DARK.

THOSE ARMS... LEGS. IN MY BACKPACK... WHAA-GHH!
THIS IS NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT RHAZES DARKK CAN DO.
HE DID THIS TO ME. HE'LL DO IT TO THE WORLD IF I DON'T STOP HIM.
AND I WILL STOP HIM.
CRUNCH
WELL-- WELL... WHY ISN'T THE GOVERNMENT IN ON THIS?
THEY ARE. THE WRONG SIDE OF IT. AGENT FINE AND I ARE A PART OF THE PENTAGON'S ALPHA FACTION. OTHERS ARE CORRUPT.
SPRINGDALE IS JUST A FRONT-- FOR DARKK. ZORINA WAS RIGHT, AND NOW THEY'VE GOT HER.
I CAME HERE BECAUSE I HAVE SOME UNKNOWN SICKNESS--OR SOMETHING. LIKE THE OTHERS. BUT THIS WAS ALL A LIE.
I'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE NOW--AND I WON'T LOSE ZORINA...
51
EXPLOS


NO MATTER WHAT.
KERCHAK
MS. BAHAREH, THIS IS THE SECOND DAY OF THE SELF-IMPOSED QUARANTINE. IS IT TRUE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS THREATENING TO COME IN ON THE SITUATION SOON?
MR. FELLER, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT EVERYTHING IN SPRINGDALE IS UNDER CONTROL.
OUR CONTROL. I HAVE SPOKEN WITH THE FBI AND THE CIA AND LET THEM KNOW THAT OUR OWN DARKLON SECURITY HAS COVERED THESE TERRORIST THREATS WITHIN OUR OWN CONFINES.
"I PROMISE YOU THAT MR. DARK FEELS THERE IS NO THREAT TO HIM OR THIS COMMUNITY.

"NO THREAT AT ALL."
NEXT:
AFTER DARK

TEN
TONY DANIEL
ALQUINTA
MOUNTS
image
3
MAY
$2.50
CANADA
TONY
DANIEL
-97-
MARLO

TM

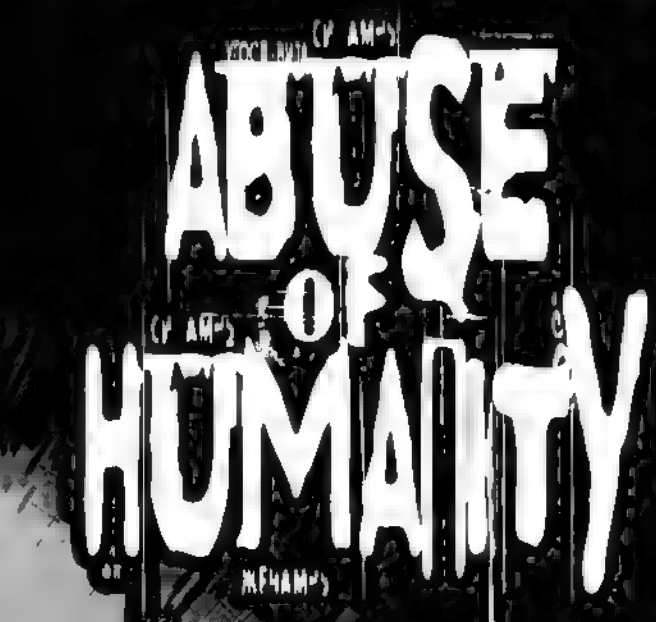
TONY DANIEL
CREATOR & ARTIST

BRAD SMITH
DEVELOPER & WRITER

MARIO ALQUIZA
INKER

PAUL MOUNTS
& BONGOTONE
COLORS

STEVE DUTRO
LETTERS



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WITHIN THE RECESSES OF THE DREAMSCAPE ALL IS NOT AS IT SEEMS.
WHERE IS SHE? I KNOW SHE'S HERE.. I CAN FEEL HER.
MOTHER!
MOM! WHERE ARE YOU?
IT NEVER IS.
ZORINA, BABY... HERE I AM... OVER HERE
MOM!

I KNEW YOU WOULD COME. I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH, ZORINA.

I MISSED YOU, TOO, MOM.

"MOM, YOU'RE SO-- SO BEAUTIFUL.

THANK YOU, DEAR. BUT TELL ME, WHERE'S ESPERANZA?

SHE SHOULD BE HERE WITH US.

IS SHE WITH HER NEW FRIEND?

ESPY-- NEW FRIEND?

WH, MOM?

YES, WHERE IS SHE? AND THE OTHER-- THE BEAST!?

NO! NO! YOU'RE NOT MY MOM!

MOTHER'S DAY IS OVER!

BACK TO NIGHTY-NIGHT, MY JUICY JPENA! YOUR LITTLE CUPCAKE IS GOING TO TELL ME EVERYTHING!

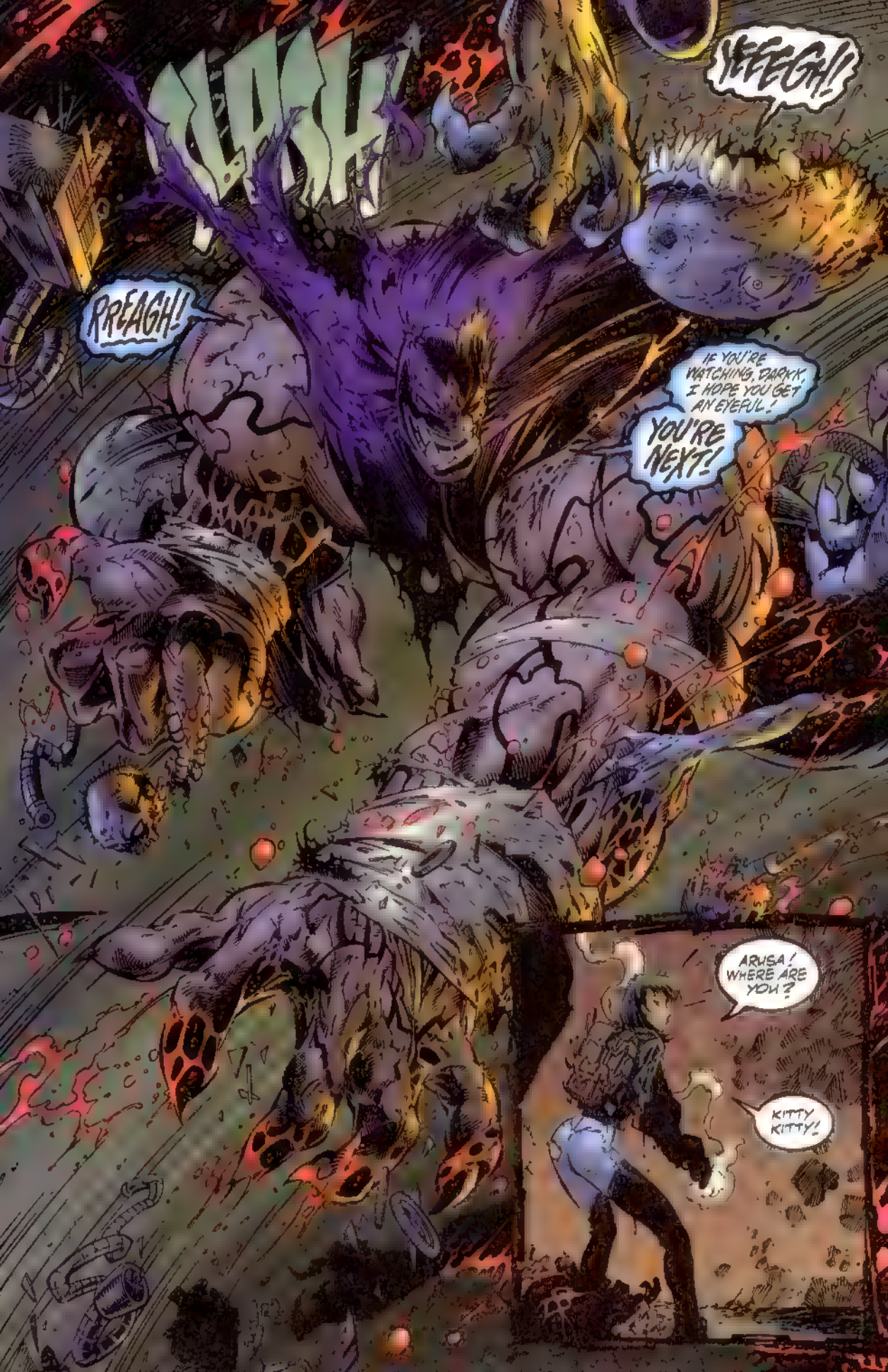
UHH-- ZORINA-- DON'T TELL HIM ANYTHING! RUN! RU--

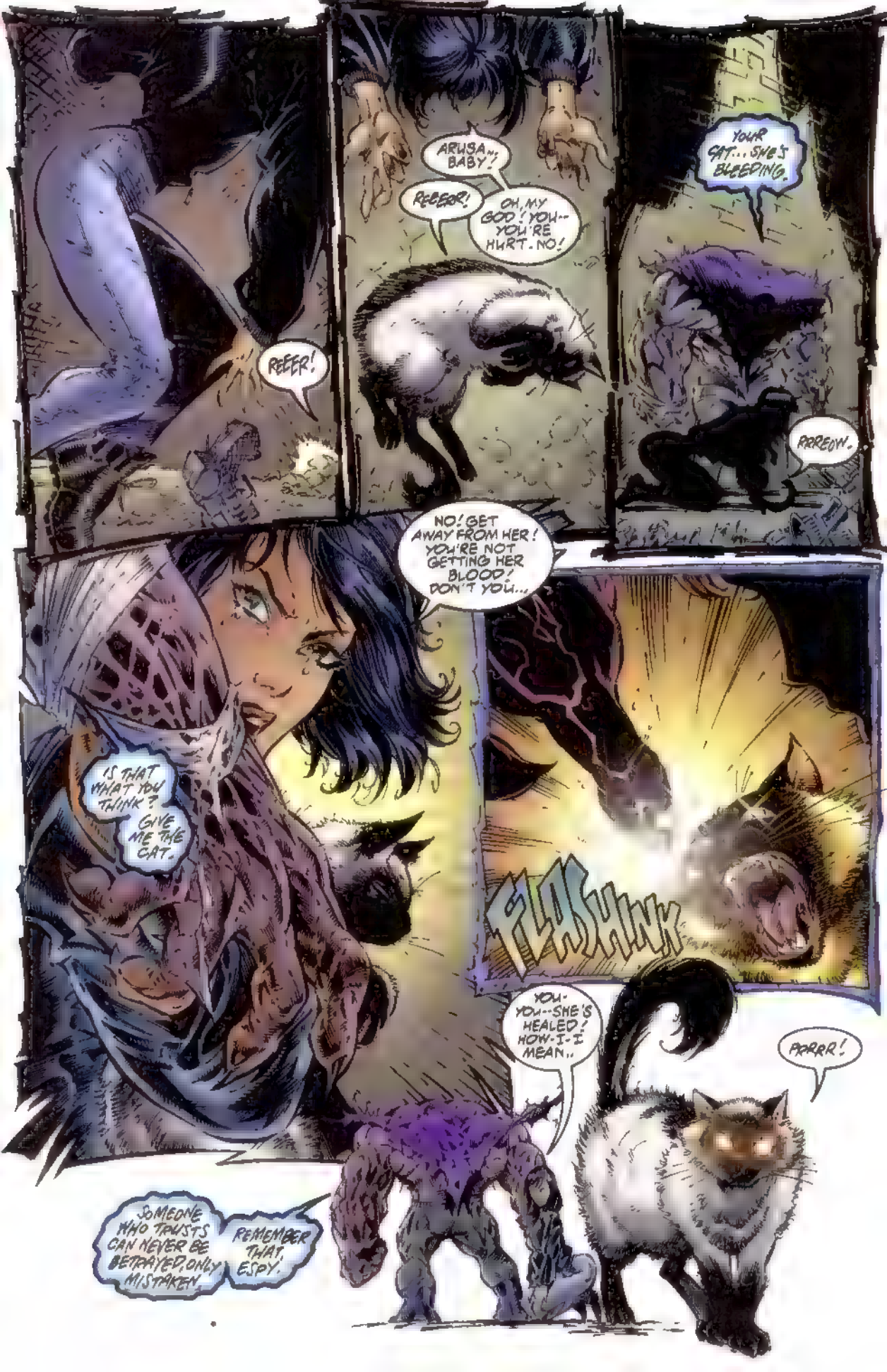
MOM! Noooo!

ZORNA, YOU MUST LISTEN. TELL THEM NOTHING. THEY WANT TO RAVE THE WAY FOR DARKNESS.
OHH MOM.
KEEP ESPY AWAY FROM... THE DARKK...
..EXPLOSIONS.. DNA BOMBS... GENETIC HOLOCAUST.
IT WILL ALL BECOME.. DARKK EARTH...
ESPY MUST BE PROTECTED..
SALVATION IS WITHIN ESPY AND.. THE TENTH.
ESPY?

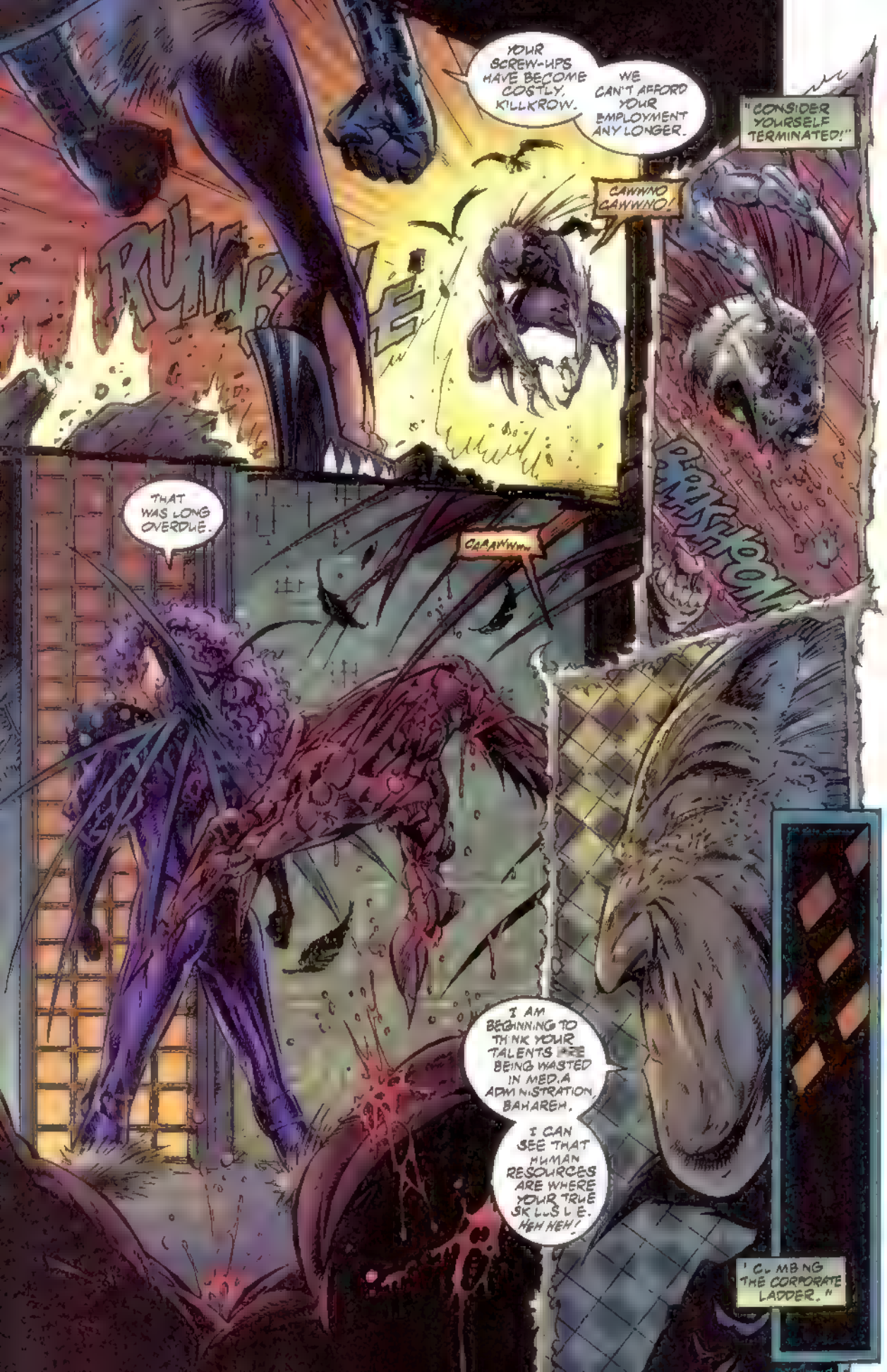
THE BOWELS OF THE DARKKLON COMPLEX.
BRUNGO
DESTINY KNOCKS HARD ON THE DOOR OF EVIL.
UH, TEN, I TAKE IT WE'VE GOT A REASON FOR BEING HERE?
OH, YEAH. I GOT WORK HERE.
SERIOUS WORK.
I'M GOING TO TURN RHAZE'S DARKK'S TWISTED PIPE DREAM INTO ONE HELL OF A PIPE BOMB.
ON A MASSIVE SCALE.
CLANK
CHING
ESPY, GET BEHIND ME!

SLASH
CRRAKK
RAAGH!
KRUNK
BLAM
GEEZ! THERE'S TONS OF 'EM!
GET AWAYGET AWAYGET AWAY!
TEN, WHAT ARE THEY?
AARR. I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE SCANNERS FOR DARKK.


SLASH
YEEGH!
RREAGH!
IF YOU'RE WATCHING, DARKK, I HOPE YOU GET AN EYEFUL!
YOU'RE NEXT!
ARUSA! WHERE ARE YOU?
KITTY KITTY!


REEER!
ARUSA, BABY!
REEEOR!
OH, MY GOD! YOU-- YOU'RE HURT. NO!
YOUR CAT... SHE'S BLEEDING.
RROEOW.
NO! GET AWAY FROM HER! YOU'RE NOT GETTING HER BLOOD! DON'T YOU...
IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK? GIVE ME THE CAT.
FLASHINK
YOU- YOU-- SHE'S HEALED! HOW-I-I MEAN..
RRRR!
SOMEONE WHO TRUSTS CAN NEVER BE BETRAYED, ONLY MISTAKEN.
REMEMBER THAT, ESPY.

KKKK
FOR YOU, FATHER. THE END OF THE BAD SEED. NUMBER TEN.
DEAD. DEAD. DEAD!
OH, REALLY?
AND WHAT OF THE GIRL, KILLKROW? WHERE ARE HER REMAINS?
DEAD, DEAD! MY FLOCK--THEY--ATE HER. ATE HER ALL UP!
TASTY, TASTY! NONE LEFT. ONLY THIS SKULL. JUST THE BONES, FATHER. KILLKROW DID GOOD, JUST LIKE YOU SAY!
CHATTERING MAGPIE. YOU LIE!
YOU'RE NOT EVEN A GOOD LIAR, KROW!
NO! NO LIES! KILL-KROW IS THE GOOD SON!
THE GIRL AND THE TENTH ARE HERE. ON THE GROUNDS.
YOU LIE
YOU DIE.
CAAAW

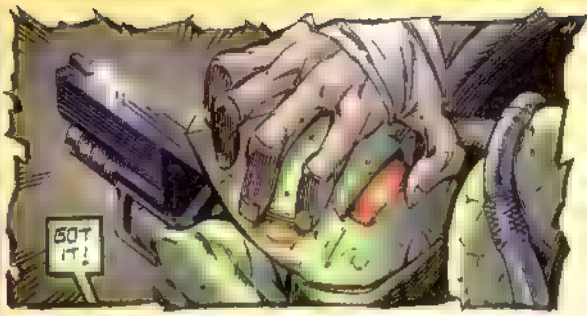

YOUR SCREW-UPS HAVE BECOME COSTLY, KILLKROW.
WE CAN'T AFFORD YOUR EMPLOYMENT ANY LONGER.
"CONSIDER YOURSELF TERMINATED!"
CAWWAO CAWWAO!
RUMBLE
PLUNGE
THAT WAS LONG OVERDUE.
CAAAWWW...
I AM BEGINNING TO THINK YOUR TALENTS ARE BEING WASTED IN MED.A ADMINISTRATION, BAHAREH.
I CAN SEE THAT HUMAN RESOURCES ARE WHERE YOUR TRUE SKILLS LIE. HEH HEH!
"CLIMBING THE CORPORATE LADDER."

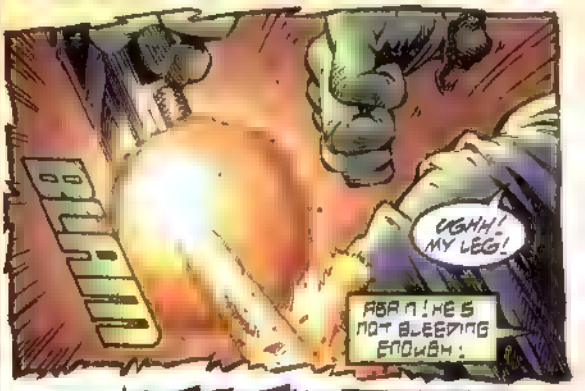
KEEP CLIMBING, ESPY. ARUSA MADE IT JUST FINE.
SHE'S A CAT. CATS CLIMB, TEN!
GET ON TOP OF THE BOMB.
THE BOMB? I'M CLIMBING ON A BOMB?
YES.
OH, GREAT!
TRUST ME. I'VE DONE THIS BEFORE
GIVE ME YOUR HAND.
OKAY.
JUST GRAB THE CLOTH.
DON'T BE AFRAID.
YOUR YOUR HAND..
BLOOD LEVEL. CHANGES THINGS.
ME.
THIS IS PLAN B. IF WE DON'T STOP DARKK--THIS WILL.
HE'S SCREWED OVER EVERYBODY IN THIS TOWN. ALL 15,000 WILL BE HIS ARMY OF DARKNESS.
THIS'LL BE AN EXPLOSIVE ENEMA HE WON'T SOON FORGET.
WAIT A MINUTE. SO YOU'VE GOT LIKE A JEKYLL AND HYDE KINDA THING GOING--RIGHT?
RRREAW!
NO I CAN'T REALLY CONTROL IT ONLY THE BLOOD CAN.
NEVER MIND. WE'VE GOT TO GET THIS THING READY
I'M GAME--AS LONG AS WE GET ZORINA OUT WITH US OKAY?

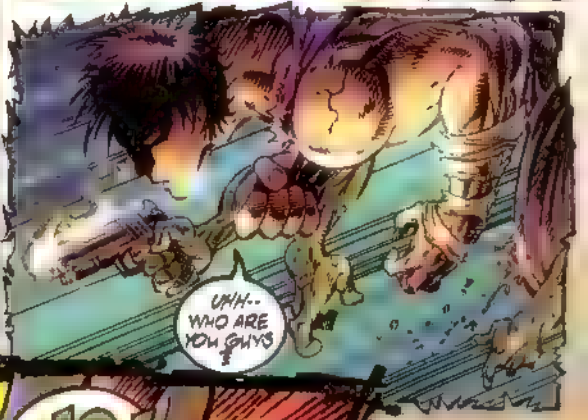
TWELVE HOURS SHOULD BE ENOUGH TIME.
YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP RHAZES?
RHAZES MADE ME THIS WAY. TO LEAD HIS ARMY OF DARKNESS AGAINST HUMANITY. KILLKROW, BLACKSPELL AND THE REST OF THE FIRST NINE HAVE SCREWED-UP DNA. DARKK HAS NO FIELD LEADER.
IT HASN'T WORKED OUT EXACTLY TO HIS SPECS.
HE'S A LITTLE PISSED.
WHIZZ
I MAY NOT BE A SOLDIER BUT I DO HAVE MY OWN TALENTS".
WELL, YOU HAVE ME. I CAN HELP.
NO. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF. IT WOULDN'T BE SAFE FOR YOU. I'M A SOLDIER. YOU'RE NOT.
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF WHEN I NEED TO.
PRRRR!
WHIPP
CLANK
HUH?
WHIRR
IT'S REALLY WEIRD. I'VE GAINED SO MUCH MORE CONTROL OF MY "ABILITIES" IN THE LAST TWO DAYS.
MEEOW!

BLAM!
WHOOPS!
GEEZ!
YEAH-- CONTROL.
LOTS OF HELP.
UH HUH.
GET THEM!
JUST LET ME LEAD ON THIS DANCE, OKAY?
GET THEM.
PHASE THROUGH!
NO! LOOK OUT! BEHIND YOU!
THERE HE IS. READY?
I'VE GOT HIM!
HURRY! IT'S COMING!
ESPY! USE THOSE TALENTS OF YOURS AND TOSS ME THAT GUN!
GET THE GIRL! GET THE GIRL!
O-OKAY!

HERE!
UGHH... THE GUN..
GRAB THAT GUN!
OOH!
GET HER!
PHASE HER THROUGH!


GOT IT!


BLAM
UGHH! MY LEG!
AAA N! HE'S NOT BLEEDING ENOUGH!


UHH.. WHO ARE YOU GUYS

NO!
SPACK
SWIPE HER!
YRAZZZ
YUGH!

HURRY-- IT COMES!
PHASE! PHASE!
WHUMD
SWACK
YEEERGHH!
FLASPP
SHRAAK
RAZZ
WHARGH!
WHACK
SLASH
WHAT THE HELL?

FULL ARMOR RUCKUS HAS MADE CONTACT.

AND IS ABOUT TO MAKE EVEN MORE!

1242

GOZZA, FULL ARMOR RUCKUS HAS THE TENTH.

HE HAS BEEN SECURED.

OUT-STANDING, F.A.R. BRING HIM IN.

SKREEK

VINES... THE VINES...

PHASE!

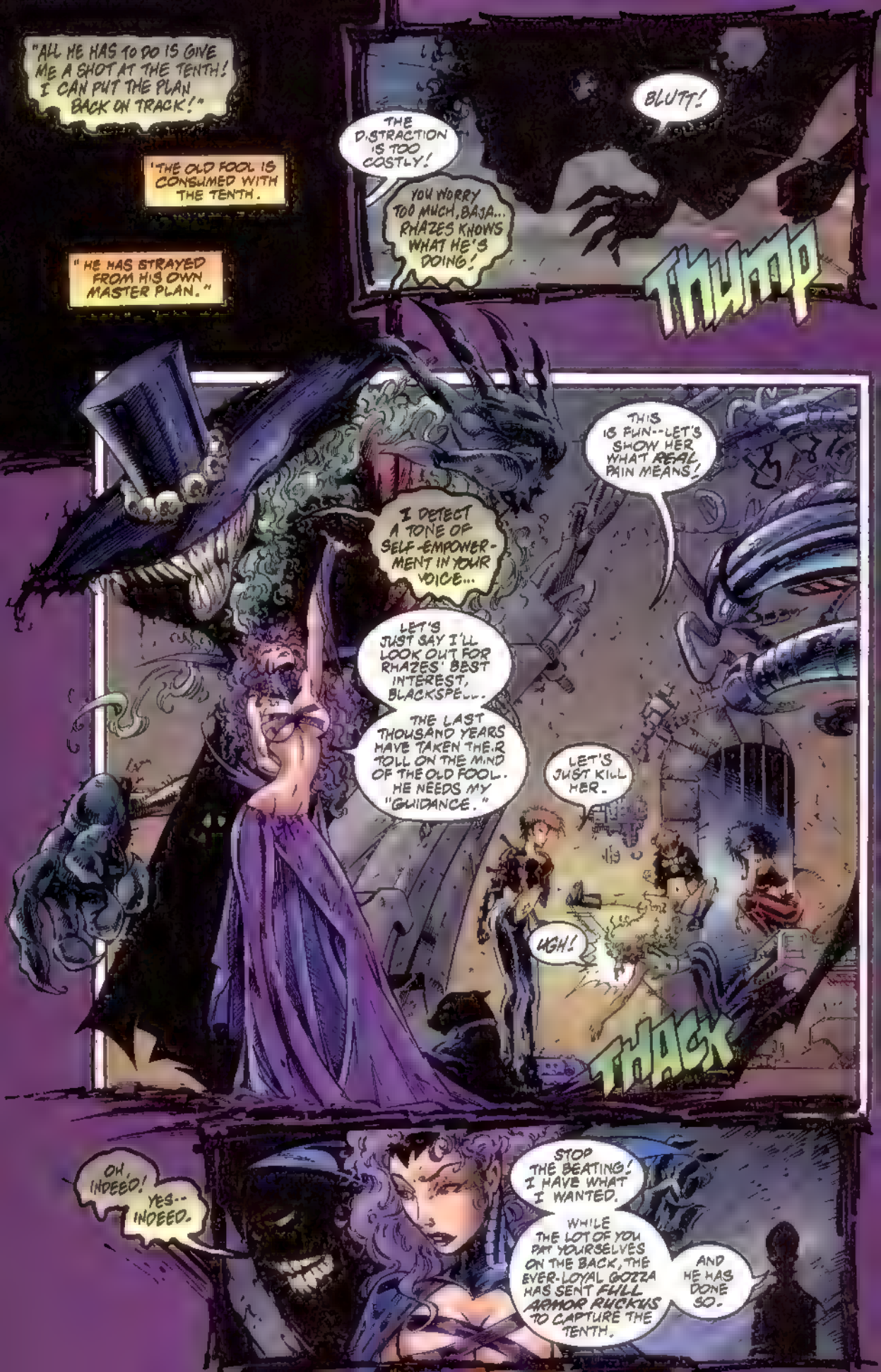
ESCAPE! IT IS HERE!

AW, SH

BE SILENT NOW!

WHOK

OOOF!


"ALL HE HAS TO DO IS GIVE ME A SHOT AT THE TENTH! I CAN PUT THE PLAN BACK ON TRACK!"
"THE OLD FOOL IS CONSUMED WITH THE TENTH.
"HE HAS STRAYED FROM HIS OWN MASTER PLAN."
THE DISTRACTION IS TOO COSTLY!
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, BAJA... RHAZES KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING!
BLUTT!
Thump
THIS IS FUN--LET'S SHOW HER WHAT REAL PAIN MEANS!
I DETECT A TONE OF SELF-EMPOWERMENT IN YOUR VOICE...
LET'S JUST SAY I'LL LOOK OUT FOR RHAZES' BEST INTEREST, BLACKSPELL.
THE LAST THOUSAND YEARS HAVE TAKEN THEIR TOLL ON THE MIND OF THE OLD FOOL. HE NEEDS MY "GUIDANCE."
LET'S JUST KILL HER.
UGH!
THACK
OH, INDEED! YES--INDEED.
STOP THE BEATING! I HAVE WHAT I WANTED.
WHILE THE LOT OF YOU PAT YOURSELVES ON THE BACK, THE EVER-LOYAL GOZZA HAS SENT FULL ARMOR RUCKUS TO CAPTURE THE TENTH.
AND HE HAS DONE SO.

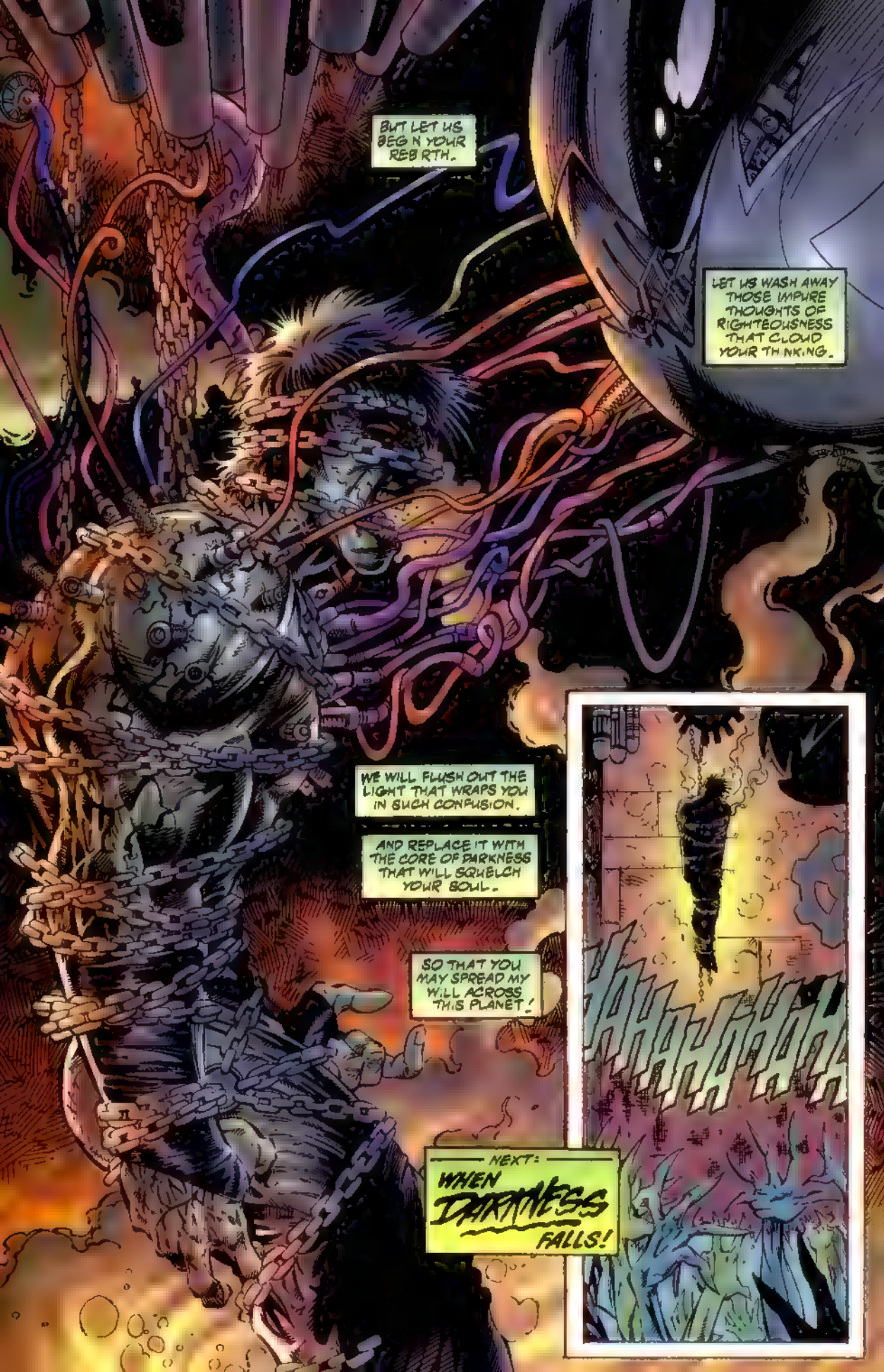
WHUMP
OOOH!
"HOLD YOUR WATER, DARKK! WE'VE JUST STARTED THIS LITTLE MAKEOVER."
HEAR THAT, LITTLE MISS MODEL? RHAZES HAS YOUR LITTLE PLAY-MATES!
I CAN SPLIT YOU OPEN AFTER ALL!
COME ON, BEG FOR SOME MERCY THAT I'M NOT GONNA GIVE!
THEN YOU HAVE TO LICK MY BOOT!
AND KISS MY ASS!
IT'S THANKSGIVING SLUT, AND YOU'RE THE TURKEY!
GOBBEE GOBBLE GOBBLE!
I SSSAID SSTOP!
NOW!
DO NOT QUESTION MY ORDERS!
I WILL PAINT THE WALLS WITH YOUR INTERNAL ORGANS!
HURCKK!
AACKK!
YAAGH!
OH, MY--

I-GACK-SORRY!!GACK!
PLEASE... AAACK!
WAGHH!
IT IS OBVIOUS YOU THREE NEED DISCIPLINE, NOT TO MENTION A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF ADJUSTING".
HERE IS THE DISCIPLINE!
THE ALTERATIONS WILL COME NEXT!
FWIP
AS FAR AS OTHER MOLES SEEKING TO FERRET THEIR WAY INTO MY PLANS--IT MATTERS NOT!
MY PLAN HAS BEEN SET IN MOTION!
UHH.. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KILL ME NOW, ARE YA? LIKE THEY ALWAYS DO IN THE MOVIES?
HISSS. NOT QUITE YET, MY PRETTY.
YOU WILL BE THE BAIT TO BRING THE ELUSIVE ESPERANZA TO ME!
UHHH!

FURTHER BELOW.
REEEOW!
OOH... UH, WHERE TENTH... UHH
MEEOW!
EVERY-THING IS IN PLACE.
CHECK ALL COORDINATES.
WHAT IS IT, ARUSA?
AWW, GREAT. I'M ACTING OUT A SCENE FROM LASSIE AND TALKING TO MYSELF.
ARUSA!
MEOWW!
JAPAN, UKRAINE AND ANTARCTICA HAVE ALL CHECKED.
ARUSA, WAIT UP!

HUMMMMMM
ARUSA...
PREPARE IGNITION FOR UNISON FIRE.
ALL TARGETS IN LINE AND LOCKED.
CLEAR AND BEGIN COUNT-DOWN..
WARNING BLAST AREA
.. TO DARK'K EARTH.
DEAR GOD, SAVE US...

BLOOD.
LIKE MONEY...
...TOO MUCH...
...OR TOO LITTLE...
...WILL BRING OUT THE MONSTER IN US ALL.
I MUST ADMIT, I ADMIRE HOW FAR YOU HAVE COME.
I WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU BEING A LEADER.
IT IS VERY UNFORTUNATE THAT YOU HAVE MADE A POOR CHOICE WITH YOUR CAREER.
BUT I SHALL SOON CHANGE ALL OF THAT.
THE DARKNESS IS COMING. TO BE SPREAD ACROSS THIS PLANET LIKE A WET SHEET.
AND YOU WILL LEAD MY ARMY.
YOU HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO SERVICE ME.
YOU ARE BACK IN THE FOLD.
YOUR NEWFOUND FRIEND...
...ESPERANZA UNKNOWN TO ALL...
...IS THE KEY TO MY NEW DARKK WORLD!


BUT LET US BEGIN YOUR REBIRTH.
LET US WASH AWAY THOSE IMPURE THOUGHTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT CLOUD YOUR THINKING.
WE WILL FLUSH OUT THE LIGHT THAT WRAPS YOU IN SUCH CONFUSION.
AND REPLACE IT WITH THE CORE OF DARKNESS THAT WILL SQUELCH YOUR SOUL.
SO THAT YOU MAY SPREAD MY WILL ACROSS THIS PLANET!
HAHAHAHA
NEXT:
WHEN DARKNESS FALLS!

Tenth
TONY DANIEL '97
MARLO MOUNTS
4 JUNE
$2.50
CANADA

THE TENTH

CHAPTER 4

ABUSE OF HUMANITY

TONY DANIEL
CREATOR & ARTIST

BRIAN SMITH
DEVELOPER & WRITER

MARIO ALQUIZA
INKER

PAUL MOUNTS
& BONGOTONE
COLORS

STEVE DUTRO
LETTERS

KGM
FILM OUTPUT

for Image Comics

Executive Director
LARRY MARDER

Art Director
DOUG GRIFFITH

Graphic Design
KENNY FELIX

Production Manager
RONNA VLADIC

Controller
LEE PATIN

Communications Director
BRENT BRAUN

Director of Sales0
BOB MATSON

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Dedicated in loving memory
Myrna Paraan and Mariedel Aban.
you will surely be missed, yet
you will always live in our hearts.
-Mario Alquiza

IT'S ALL BEEN SET IN MOTION.
WHEN THE BOMBS GO OFF EVERYTHING WILL CHANGE..
...FOREVER.
TRANSFORMATION N OTHERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE.
ONES THAT YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE.
ONCE THE BOMBS HAVE GONE OFF, THE ULTIMATE METAMORPHOUS WILL BEGIN.
ONE THAT IS GLOBAL..
ONE THAT WILL BRING ON--DARKK EARTH.
THE IMAGE OF THE MADMAN--
RHAZES DARKK!
THE OUTSIDE WORLD BELIEVES HIM TO BE A GREAT BENEFACTOR
FROM THAT A NEW RACE WILL BE BORN.
ONE BUILT IN HIS TWISTED IMAGE.
THE TRUTH IS HE IS THE VERY CORE OF EVIL.
A CORE THAT LIES IN THE SUPPOSED UTOPIA CALLED SPRINGDALE.
IN REALITY SPRINGDALE IS THE NEW GATES OF HELL.
GATES THAT WILL OPEN ACROSS THE WORLD AND LEAD EVERYTHING TO A GLOBAL GENETIC HOLOCAUST.

DEEP IN THE SECRET LEVEL OF THE PENTAGON.
HMM, I SEE.
AND I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF CONCRETE PROOF?
PLINK
PROOF?
SEND A TASK FORCE IN HERE AND I'LL OVERLOAD YOU WITH PROOF!
TELL ME-- EXACTLY WHERE ARE YOU?
PLINK
BELIEVE ME! YOU NEED TO BRING HELP AND FAST!
THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS THING HERE!
REST ASSURED, WE ARE TAKING YOU VERY SERIOUS, MISS DEL TORRO.
MS. BAHAREH IS ON HER WAY HERE NOW TO HELP SORT OUT THIS SITUATION.
PLOINK
WHO? BAHAREH? WAIT A MINUTE, SHE'S...
ESPY! ESPY, IT'S ME-- ZORINA!
PLOINK
ZORINA-- YOU'RE-- ALIVE!
WHERE ARE YOU?
CORRIDOR 2, ROOM 17.
STAY THERE. I'M COMING.
REEOW!

SMITTY, THERE--IT'S THE BITCH WITH THE CAT!
GRAB HER! MR. DARKK WANTS HER ALIVE!
HERUNGGH
NO! ARUSA, JUMP!
PLINK
WHUHH!
THAP
ESPY... IS THAT YOU? I'M IN HERE. THE DOOR--IT'S LOCKED!
IT'S ME. GET BACK, ZORINA. I'M GOING TO UNLOCK THE DOOR.
MEOWW!

RAAA!

KRUG!

OH, ESPY.. I-I-I'M SORRY.

THEY'RE FORCING ME--

UHHHHONONO-- THEY--MADE MEEEE

MY-- GOD-- NO!

GOD? YOU MEAN YOUR NEW GOD, DON'T YOU?

RHAZES DARKK-- THE NEW GOD OF THE DARKK EARTH!

BLACKSPELL, YOU'RE SUCH AN ASS-K SSER!

I HAVE SUFFERED MUCH TURMOIL TO HAVE YOU IN MY COMPANY, MISS DEL TORO. I AM SURE THAT IT WILL ALL BE WORTH IT.

AS YOU KNOW, YOU ARE VERY SPECIAL. I NEED YOUR NEWLY-MANIFESTED POWERS.. POWERS THAT ARE TRULY GOD-GIVEN, BUT NOT THE GOD YOU THINK.

I AM THAT GOD.

MISS DEL TORO... AT LAST.

THE VINES.

THEY CARRY THE STRENGTH, THE EARTH'S BLOOD..

...THAT WILL BE USED TO RELEASE MY OWN..

...AND IN TURN RELEASE...

...THE POWER...

...THE MONSTER.

PLINK

PLINK

PLINK

Lick

DARK MUST BE STOPPED.

I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT.

THE TENTH.

THERE CAN BE NO MORE.

KRAK

DRIP

PLINK

PLOINK

THERE CAN BE-- RRAGH

SNAP

ONLY ONE!

KRECK

ARRGH!

THE SERVANTS OF THE DARKK.

THEY ARE MANY.

REEGH!

REEGH!

REEGH!

TOO MANY TO GO AROUND.

REEGH!

BUT JUST ENOUGH TO GO THROUGH!

RAKKK!

"IT'S TOO LATE, MISS DEL TORO...WITHIN THE HOUR I WILL HAVE FOREVER CHANGED LIFE AS YOU KNOW IT."
LET ME GUESS...A GIANT BOMB? FILLED WITH PLUTONIUM? OR MAYBE GERM WARFARE?
I HAVE TO SAY IT'S NOT THAT ORIGINAL, Y'KNOW...OTHER RADICALS HAVE TRIED TO CHANGE THE WORLD WITH THESE TACTICS...ALBEIT ON A MUCH SMALLER SCALE.
"TRY A GLOBAL SCALE. AT MY WILL, IN TOTAL SYNCHRONIZATION, THE EARTH WILL BE ENVELOPED WITH NEW LIFE...DARKK LIFE...
"YOU ARE INDEED A GIFTED CHILD--YOUR TALENT WONT BE WASTED...YOU WILL JOIN THE RANKS OF OTHERS LIKE YOU WHO WILL SERVE ME AND MY WILL.
"AND NOW WITH THE TENTH BACK IN MY POSSESSION, ALL THE PIECES OF MY GLOBAL TAKEOVER ARE IN PLACE!"
YOU'RE NOT GOD, RHAZES--YOU'RE A SICK, DEMENTED EXCUSE OF A MAN!

HE IS A GOD! HE OWNS YOU! HE OWNS EVERYTHING! YOU WILL SLUT YOUR POWERS OUT TO HIS EVERY COMMAND!
DARKK, YOU'RE REALLY MESSED UP IF YOU THINK I'LL HELP YOU!
ESPY... DON'T LISTEN TO--UHH-- H M!
Slut! Slut!
HEH HEH. OH, YOU WILL HELP, MY SHAPELY LITTLE MORSEL. BLACKSPELL WILL SEE TO THAT.
HE'LL CHANGE YOU-- JUST LIKE HE HAS CHANGED YOUR LITTLE FRIEND!
I WON'T LET THIS HAPPEN.
YOU TWISTED BASTARD--
RELEASE HER!
OOHH!
SPLAW
ZZZRRRRAAAK
Heeee, YESSSS!
ANGER, RAGE, THE WILL TO PUNISH.
I LOVE IT!

NOW I MUST TAME YOU.
LIKE A WILD BEAST...
...YOU MUST BE HARNESSED.
SLRAAACL
UHHH!
OOOH ESPY... YOU-YOU--HA--DID IT.
UHH!
YOUR WILL MUST BE MINE.
"YOU MUST EMBRACE YOUR TRUE BIRTHRIGHT."
"YOU MUST EMBRACE...
the DARKK...
UNDER THE COMPLEX...
ESPY... I'M COMING!
SHRUMP
SHRUMP

REEE!
I'M COMING!
SHARUMF
SHARUMF
REEE!
REEE!
WHAT... ARE YOU..?
YESSS, YOU FEEL IT. I KNOW YOU DO.
THE DARKNESS!
WA TING FOR ME TO UNLEASH IT! Heh Hehhh!
IT IS IN YOU. IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN.
WAITING TO COME FORTH.
REEAGH!
ohh... whaa...
HOHH.. ARWSA ?
ROARRH!

YAHH!
THE FELINE'S HR NATION, LKE, ACID.. WHHHH. HOW?
HSS
TWISTED THREE--KILL THAT DAMN CAT--NOW!
BITE IT, YOU WHEEZING OLD FEEB!
OUR JOB IS DONE HERE. YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.
NYAA NYAA!
YOU TREASONOUS PACK OF V'PERS! BAHAREH WAS TO HAVE ADJUSTED YOUR ATTITUDES. OBVIOUSLY SHE FAILED ME ALSO.
REGARDLESS, I WILL NOT FA'L!
YOU HAVE ALREADY FAILED, DARKK!
WEEHAA
SHNICK
YOUR WAYS HAVE GROWN TWISTED. THEY HAVE STRAYED FROM YOUR ORIGINAL GOAL.
GOZZA HAS REMAINED PURE TO THE CAUSE. THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE SON TO REPLACE THE FATHER AS HEAD OF THE FAMILY.

FWIP FWIP
AND I WILL BE THE ONE TO PRESENT YOUR SEVERED HEAD TO HIM!
DECEPTION ALL AROUND ME.
CHILDREN WITH NO RESPECT.
AND NO IDEA OF MY TRUE POWER.
EBPY, LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.
ZORINA, YOU ARE SO RIGHT.
BLUE BLOOD BLUE HA R... RETIRE HIS ANCIENT ASS TO FLORIDA!
LISTEN TO H M SUCK WIND...SOO COOL!
OHH... TOTAL GROSS OUT! THE GEEZER'S BLOOD IS BLUE!
LITTLE BITCHES..
I AM AT NUCLEAR LEVEL THREE. ALL YOUR MISTAKES WILL BE ERASED.
NO EVIDENCE, NO SPRINGDALE, NO RHAZES DARKK. ALL BLAME FALLS ON THE "TERRORISTS" YOU HAVE SO NEATLY PROVIDED.
NO! OVER-CONFIDENCE BREEDS MISTAKES.
GREEK!
AND YOUR MISTAKES WILL PROVE FATAL!

GEEZ, EGPY.. WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE. THEY RE GOING TO BLOW UP EVERYTHING!
AND WHERE'S YOUR "MONSTER" FRIEND ? WHAT HAPPENED TO H M ?
OHH.. I'M STILL DIZZY.. MY HEAD FEELS LIKE IT S GOING TO POP.
I-I HAVEN'T SEEN THE TENTH N A WH LE. WE SEPARATED.. HE'S AROUND SOME-WHERE.. CLOSE MAYBE... HHH..
REEON?
FLOWSH
FLOWSH
OOOH!
.. I KNOW SOMETH NG IS CLOSE.. SOMETHING...
YAAAH!
NO...NOT AGAIN.
YOU GIRLS CAN'T LEAVE YET.
IT'S TIME TO PLAY SINGLED OUT!
MMMGT!
NOOO!
You be Jenny McCarthy!
And you be Carmen Electra! Heehee!

BRRR
AND YOU CAN BE JUST PLAIN DEAD!
THOK
TENTH!
WHUAGH!

I'M GONNA PULL YOU APART...
...FROM THE INSIDE OUT!
STRETCH
Yeeleekk!
Lemme go lemme golemme go!
WHAT-EVER IT IS I'M DOING...
...IT'S WORKING!
FOOMP
ESPY! HELP ME!
Get in here!
Come on, baby! It's party time!
AIRGH!
We'll be back to get you later...
Gotta go!
Gotta go gotta go!
SWIRL
AACK... SHE'S DISRUPTED MY INNER VORTEX.
HAVE TO REGENERATE... ESCAPE.
FOOMP

And your little cat, too!
GROUND LEVEL OF DESTRUCTION COUNTDOWN IS IN PROGRESS.
ALL WITHIN TARGET AREA SHALL BE ERASED.
THE PLACE IS GOING TO BLOW! LET'S BAIL!
I'M THERE, LITTLE SISTER!
VIO VIO VIO
VAROOM!
UHH... WHAT? A HOLO-PROJECTION?
"GOZZA!"
SURPRISED, RHAZES? SO PREDICTABLE AT YOUR CURRENT STATE OF MIND, OR SHOULD I SAY, LACK OF IT?
BUT I, GOZZA THE DRAGON, HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THE IMMORTAL LEGACY THAT YOU HAVE LOST SIGHT OF.
ONE SET FORTH FROM THE FIRST IMMORTALS... IMMORTALS ONCE WORSHIPPED AND FEARED AS TRUE GODS.
ZEUS, ODIN, YANG, ALL OF THE OTHERS THAT CAME BEFORE. WE SHALL BE ALL THEY WERE--AND MORE!
YOU'VE LET THE TENTH CONSUME YOU, FEEBLE ONE. YOU'VE GONE ASTRAY OF THE VERY GOALS YOU CREATED.
YOU LITTLE BASTARD! I CREATED ALL OF YOU!
DON'T BE TOO UPSET, RHAZES... IN A WAY, THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN.
YOU CREATED ME TO SUCCEED YOU.
BECAUSE OF YOU, WE'LL HAVE TO SHUT DOWN THE NORTH AMER CAN BASE. F.A.R. WILL SEE TO THAT. SEE YA!

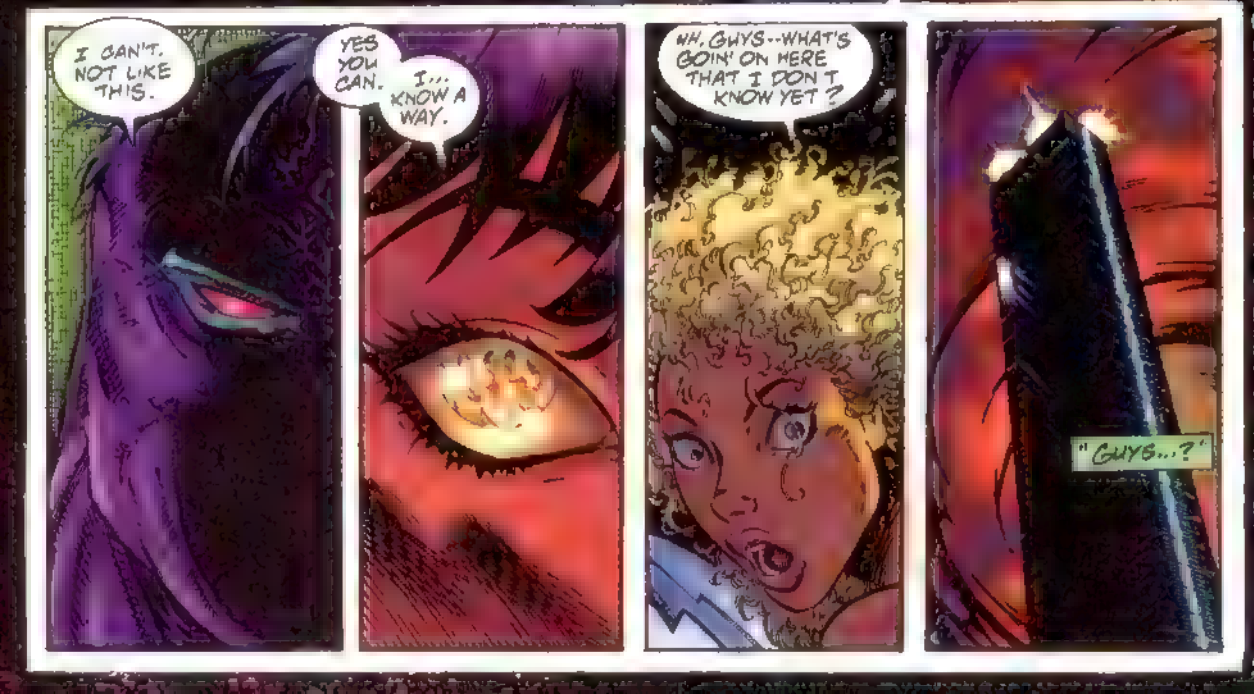
COUNT-DOWN--DEX-IN-VIZZT-PROGRESS!
IT'S ALL FALLING DOWN AROUND YOU, DARKK!
YOUR TWISTED GAME OF "SPIN THE" GENETICS" IS GOING DOWN.
YOU SHOULD'VE STUCK TO FARM ANIMALS!
SLASH
COUNT-DOWN IN PROGRESS-TICK-TICK!
ALL MY CHILDREN, MY CREATIONS ARE TRYING TO LEAVE THE NEST I HAVE PREPARED FOR THEM.
NONE OF YOU KNOW HOW TO FLY, LET ALONE TAKE LEADERSHIP FROM ME.
I AM NOT YOUR CHILD, DARKK!
BUT YOU ARE MY CREATION.
AND WHAT I CREATE I CAN ALSO DESTROY!
RUMMMBLLMMM

RUN THE P GS DOWN, KIRA!
ESPY, IT'S THOSE 'HEATHERS IN LEATHER!"
VAROOM
STAND BACK, ZORINA.
SCREECH
NOOO!
YAAGH!
UGHH!
THRACK
THAT'S THE BITCH THAT TR ED TO STAB ME!
HMM, CUTE OUTFIT.
COME ON, ZORINA. LET'S GO.

VZZZZZZZ
UGHK!
IT'S THIS SIMPLE, GRANDPA MONSTER..
...I'M GONNA #%@$ YOU UP!
VZZZ
YOU CAN'T BE IMMORTAL IF YOU'RE IN A MILLION LITTLE PIECES!
OH, S THAT WHAT YOU THINK?
RRAGH!
BRAZZZZZZ
RRAGH! YOU SON OF A--
UHH-- TOO MUCH OF A DRAIN.. UHH.
BRAZZZZ

LAST CYCLE OF COUNTDOWN -TICK- ENTERING LAST DIGITS -TICK-
I AM COMING, DARKK LORD. I WILL AID YOU!
ESCAPE IS NEAR. I WILL ENGULF AND PROTECT YOU.
QUICKLY! QUICKLY!
I'M TAKING YOU LITTLE CHICKIES, TOO. I'M SURE YOUR BOSS, GOZZA WON'T MIND!
YOU'RE DUE FOR SOME HEAVY SPANK TIME!
NO! NO!
LET ME GO! GET AWAY!
NOOO!
WHOOSH
YASHOOM
AAAAAA!
WHOOSH
"SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE, TENTH!"

UH-- MR. TENTH, OR WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS--
YOU COMIN' OR GOIN'?
LICK IT
YOU GUYS TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES.
I'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY OUT.
RUMBLE
NO.
YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE ON FOOT. I SAW THE AMMO HERE. THIS WHOLE AREA WILL BE A HUGE CRATER IN A FEW MINUTES!
YOU NEED TO RIDE OUT WITH US.


I CAN'T. NOT LIKE THIS.
YES YOU CAN.
I... KNOW A WAY.
UH, GUYS--WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE THAT I DON'T KNOW YET?
"GUYS...?"

COUNT-DOWN-TICK-SINGLE DIGITS-TICK!
AAAA-CHOO!
BLAAAAAAAM
THE PENTAGON.
"THE MISSION HAS FA LED. THE WEAPON.. GONE.
"NOW WE LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THAT DAMN GOZZA.
WERE THERE ANY SURVYORS MR. CARDON? ANYONE THAT COULD INDICATE US?
NO ONE ESCAPED TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, GENERAL GREER. NO SURVIVORS.
GOOD.
WRONG AGA N, FELLAS.
THUMP

THERE WERE SOME ESCAPES.
THREE TO BE EXACT.
BUT DON'T WORRY. EVERYTHING YOU NEED IS IN THE CASE. WE'VE GOT OUR OSWALD.
THE FUN HAS JUST BEGUN.
WEDNESDAY'S EXPLOSION HAS BEEN CONFIRMED TO BE A TERRORIST ACT.
THE EXPERIMENTAL CITY AND COMPLEX OF SPRINGDALE WAS WIPED OFF THE MAP.
THE EXPLOSION WAS NOT NUCLEAR AS FIRST INDICATED. INVESTIGATION OF THE TYPE OF EXPLOSIVE IS ONGOING.
THE PENTAGON HAS VERY STRONG LEADS ON THE IDENTITIES OF THE TERRORISTS KNOWN TO BE INVOLVED.
THOSE SUSPECTS HAVE FLED. A NATION-WIDE HUNT IS IN PROGRESS.
TERRORISTS? IT WASN'T TERRORISTS... IT WAS...
THEY'RE BLAMING IT ON US.
MOM.. BLACKSPELL HAS MY MOM. WE'VE GOT TO FIND HER.
DON'T WORRY, ARUSA, WE'LL BE SAFE SOON.
=KISS=
MEEOW!
Springdale City Limits Population
"WE'RE GOING TO FIND YOUR MOM, ZORINA.
"AND WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO KILL BLACKSPELL WHEN WE DO."
THE BEGINNING.

ISSUE
Tenth
DANIEL
SMITH
ALQUIZA
MOUNTS
JOHN DANIEL 97
MARLO
mounts
ENTERTAINMENT

THE TENTH

ISSUE 0

TONY DANIEL

CREATOR AND ARTIST

BRENT SMITH

DEVELOPER AND WRITER

MARLO ALQUIZA

INKER

PAUL MOUNTS AND RONG DUONG

COLORS AND SEPERATIONS

WILDCARDS

LETTERS

BRANDON RANDOLPH

EDITOR

For Image Comics:

Executive Director
Larry Marder

Art Director
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Production Manager
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Communications Director
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THE ARMY OF DARKNESS.
SUCH EFFICIENT LITTLE CUT-THROATS.
SKREEE!
SKREEE!
SKREEEE!
HUNDREDS OF THEM.
MOBILE METAMORPHOUS OF TRANSFUSION.
RAZOR SHARP TEETH THAT TAKE OUT EXISTING BLOOD AND REPLACE IT WITH THE FLUID OF MUTATION.
LEAD BY THE PERFECT FIELD GENERAL-
NUMBER TEN-- THE DECIMATOR!
SPRINGDALE. ITS POPULATION. .
TO BE ATTACKED... OVERRUN... TRANSFORMED.
THAT'S THE STORY..
THE SCRIPT...
THE FIRST MISSION.

COMPUTER GEEK, HUH?? I'M GETTING A PATTERN DISRUPTION, MS. BAHAREH.

NO WORRY....

DO THEM ALL!

SKREEEEEE!

IT'S TIME TO DRAFT THEM INTO THE RANKS...

SKREEEEEEE!

SKREEEEEE!

SKREEEEEE!

OF THE ARMY OF DARKNESS... *RRREAGGHH!*

HE WAS CREATED FOR THIS MOMENT.

GRRRRRRRR.....

WHAT THE HECK'S GOIN' ON?! THAT SIGNAL HAS GONE FROM MINOR INTERFERENCE TO A FULL BLOWN THIRD PARTY HACK IN!
AWESOME!! HE MUST HAVE AN INTENSE SYSTEM!
SHAAZZFIZZIT
FIND IT AND STOP IT.
MS. BAHAREH, MY READINGS ON THE TENTH HAVE HIM HESITATING
HE'S FALLEN BEHIND THE OTHERS.
UH.. MS BAHAREH.... THAT THIRD PARTY HACK IS.... UH... FEEDING HIM DATA.
CONTROLLING HIM. THERE'S GOTTA BE A MALFUNCTION... A GLITCH.
WELL, DID YOU FIND THE ERROR, MR. MILO?
EVERYTHING CHECKS OUT. JUST AS IT SHOULD BE. THEY MUST BE RIDING AN EXTREME SCRAMBLE.
TECH
LET ME SEE THAT BOARD.
TAP
TAP
TAPTAP!
TAP

C'MON, C'MON. DOWNLOAD YOU EXPENSIVE PIECE OF CRAP!
TINK!
TINK!
TINK!
OOOKAY... REELING HIM IN.... COME ON, VICTOR.. REMEMBER WHO YOU REALLY ARE.
GOTCHA!
REMEMBER.....
DAAAAARRKKK....
YOU DID THIS TO ME.
THRAAANK!
THRAAANK!
RRR... HUH??
YOU TURNED ME INTO ....
..A
$#&%IN' MONSTER!!
CRRRAAAAAK!

GOD-- I CAN REMEMBER.

YES... I REMEMBER...

MEMORIES ARE FLOODING MY MIND...

INFILTRATION INTO HIS COMPLEX. FIGHTING HIS FUTURE RACE OF FREAKS.

I REMEMBER...

THE THINGS HE DID TO ME...

THE EXPERIMENTS... THE TRANSFORMATION PROCESS...

BUT I WASN'T THE ONLY ONE.

IT'S STARTING TO HURT-- TOO MUCH, TOO SOON...

MEMORIES OR VISIONS THAT DON'T MAKE SENSE!

I'LL USE DARKK'S OWN SICK MUTATION AGAINST HIM.
STARTING WITH THESE SICK PUPPIES!!
SKREEEEE
..NO!
LOOK OUT!!
AN ARMY CAN'T MARCH IF THEY'VE GOT NO LEGS.
SLAAAAASSHH!
SSSSWHHHHTTTT!
SHUUUUMMMTT!
AND THEY CAN'T BITE IF THEY'VE GOT NO TEETH.
SLLLAAAAAARRRR!
DID YOU FIND THE THIRD PARTY, MR. WAID?
YES, MS. BAHAREH. WITHIN OUR OWN COMPLEX.
THIRD FLOOR. BIO LAB. ROOM 242
AND...
TECH
WE WERE TOO LATE. WHOEVER IT WAS... IS GONE.
AND WE'VE LOST MENTAL AND PHYSICAL CONTROL ON NUMBER 10
WHAT??
ABORT... NOW!! TRIP THE BLOOD RELEASE. GET HIM BACK HERE!

AHHHHHH!!
DAAAAARRKK!
I'LL KILL YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO ME!
I'LL DESTROY YOUR PERVERSIONS OF SCIENCE. I WON'T LET YOU ABUSE HUMANITY!!
HIS WRISTARATOR HAS BEEN TRIGGERED.
I'LL...
DUCKAAAK!
NO!
PLASMA RELEASE PROCESS HAS BEGUN.
CLINNK
DNA BLOOD CELL CAPACITY IS LEVELING AT THAT OF 100 MEN.
OVERLOAD ON PLASMA IS AT 25% AND RISING.
AUUUGHHH!

75% AND RISING.
NO...
90% AND RISING.
NOOOOOO...
100%. WE HAVE REACHED COMA STATE.
BLACKSPELL, ABORT SEARCH AND DESTROY.
YOUR ORDERS ARE TO RETRIEVE AND RETURN NUMBER TEN.
HHMMM